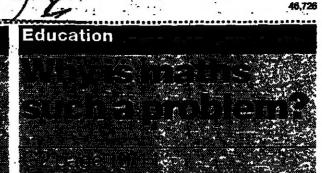
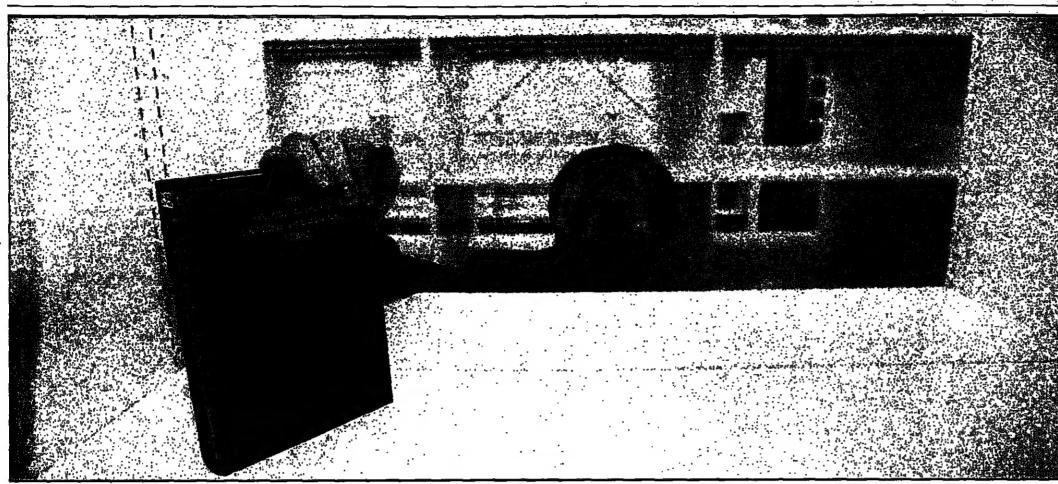
ls Britain becoming litigation crazy?



The language of love gone wrong





Just 22 years of planning, 12 years of building work and £511m later, the first book goes on to the shelves of the British Library. (Entry for the public follows in 12 months time — approx.)

# **Budget fails to boost Tories**

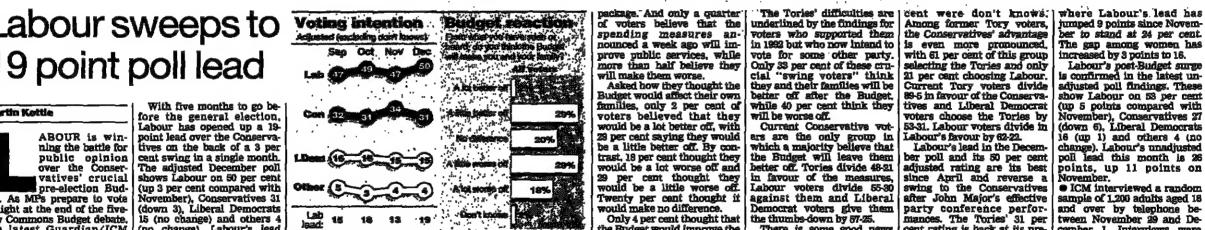
# 19 point poll lead

Martin Kettle

ABOUR is winning the battle for public opinion over the Conservatives' crucial pre-election Budget. As MPs prepare to vote tonight at the end of the fiveday Commons Budget debate, the latest Guardian/ICM opinion poll shows that Kenneth Clarke's measures last ment charke's measures last week have had the thumbs-down from the voters, have failed to generate the long-awaited feel-good factor for the Conservatives, and have fuelled the sharpest swing in favour of Labour since the

With five months to go be-fore the general election, Labour has opened up a 19-point lead over the Conservatives on the back of a 3 pe cent swing in a single month. The adjusted December poll shows Labour on 50 per cent (up 3 per cent compared with November), Conservatives 31 (down 3), Liberal Democrats 15 (no change) and others 4 (no change). Labour's lead has jumped by six points

All this would be bad enough for the Conservatives, especially so close to a gen-eral election, but it is compounded by a series of disas-trously negative poli findings on a Budget by which the Government had set great



electoral store. Instead, only electoral store. Instead, only days after the Budget, there has been a three-point fall in the percentage of voters who believe that the Conservatives are the best party for managing the economy. Labour now leads the Tories by 24 prints to 25 on the second. by 34 points to 25 on the econ-

omy, with the Liberal Demo crats trailing on 7 per cent. Less than a third of all voters believe that the Budget measures will make either themselves or their families better off, while nearly half believe that they will be worse off after Mr Clarke's

nounced a week ago will improve public services, while more than half believe they Asked how they thought the Budget would affect their own families, only 2 per cent of voters believed that they

would be a lot better off, with 29 per cent saying they would be a little better off. By con-trast, 18 per cent thought they would be a lot worse off and 29 per cent thought they would be a little worse off. Twenty per cent thought it would make no difference. Only 4 per cent thought that the Budget would improve the public services a lot, with 21 per cent saying they would be improved a little. But 27 per cent thought that services would be made a lot worse and a further 28 per cent thought they would be a little worse. Only 15 per cent thought the measures would measures would make no difference.

vote for some other party.
Only 33 per cent of these crucial "swing voters" think
they and their families will be better off after the Budget, while 40 per cent think they will be worse off.

Current Conservative vot-ers are the only group in which a majority believe that the Budget will leave them better off. Tories divide 48-21 in favour of the measures. Labour voters divide 55-30 against them and Liberal Democrat voters give them the thumbs-down by 57-25.

There is some good news for the Conservatives. The Tories remain the party most voters think will keep taxes low. Asked which of the two major parties is the more likely to be able to keep taxes low, 47 per cent of voters chose the Conservatives, com-pared with 36 per cent who chose Labour. Seventeen per

in 1992 but who now intend to is even more pronounced, with 61 per cent of this group selecting the Tories and only 21 per cent choosing Labour. Current Tory voters divide 89-5 in favour of the Conserva-tives and Liberal Democrat voters choose the Tories by 53-31. Labour voters divide in Labour's favour by 62-22. Labour's lead in the December poll and its 50 per cent adjusted rating are its best since April and reverse a swing to the Conservatives after John Major's effective

party conference performances. The Tories' 31 per cent rating is back at its preconference level.

The swing to Labour is particularly strong among men, the profile of all adults.

The gap among women has increased by 3 points to 16.

Labour's post-Budget surge is confirmed in the latest unadjusted poll findings. These show Labour on 53 per cent (up. 5 points on payand with (up 5 points compared with November), Conservatives 27 (down 6), Liberal Democrats 16 (up 1) and others 4 (no change). Labour's unadjusted poll lead this month is 26 points, up 11 points on

● ICM interviewed a random sample of 1,200 adults aged 18 and over by telephone becember I. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results weighted to

## Road rage victim stabbed to death Low bridge ahead

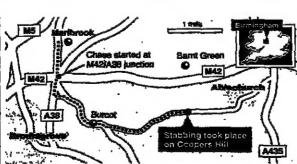
Sarah Boseley

DRIVER bled to death in front of his girlfriend after being stabbed in the face, neck and body in a renzied attack of road rage, opparently by a passenger in arar he overtook. Vest Mercia police are

hurring for the attacker who kills I Lee Harvey, aged 25, and injured his girliflend Trace Andrews, aged 27, in a sustained knife attack on a lonely country road on Sun-As far as we are con-

cerned, it is a murder," said Carl Baldaccino, spokesman for West Mercia police. "It seems to have arisen out of a motoring incident — a nor-mal overtaking manoeuvre. There is no suggestion that they had known or met the occupants of the other car before."

The couple, who lived together in the village of Alve-charch and each had a young daughter by their previous partner, had gone out for a drink with friends at a quiet country pub called the Marl-brook, near Bromsgrove.



As they drove home on the A38, they overtook a dark F-registration Ford Sierra batchback, in poor condition. near junction 1 of the M42. Police said they did not know what Mr Harvey had done to anger the other motorist. "The only witness was Tracie. She was leaning down taking a tape out of the glove compartment. She was only ware of the car swerving.

The couple crossed the motorway and turned left on to the small roads and lanes that would lead them back to Alvechurch, with the car following them. It pursued them for three miles, close to

lights flashing. "Gestures were exchanged," said Mr The Sierra is believed to

have overtaken Mr Harvey and Ms Andrews in their cort and the two cars came to a stop. Mr Harvey and the driver of the other car got out. "There were verbal ex-changes and there might have been a bit of a push," said Mr Baldaccino. The other driver got back into his car.

"Then the front passenger a fat man, got out and ap-proached Mr Harvey and stabbed him. It was a sus-tained attack taking place over several minutes. He was

stabbed at least 15 times in the face, neck and body. The attack continued as he fell to the ground. His girlfriend tried to intervene and she was struck and cut and punched to the ground as well. She

above her eye."

The cars had stopped outside an isolated house. Those inside heard nothing, but one of them happened to be leav-ing just after the incident, and saw Ms Andrews on the road, cradling her boyfriend in her arms. They called the

Det Sunt Ian Johnston, in charge of the investigation, said: "We are treating this as murder, a murder that stems from a road-rage-type inci-dent. This was a vicious crime, one of the most vicious I've seen in 30 years."

The attacker is described as white, aged 25-26, about 5ft 9in to 6ft tall and very overweight. He was wearing a thigh-length, donkey-type jacket and would have been very heavily bloodstained, said police. The driver of the car was white, 18-19 years old, slim with very short dark

## for rail freight plan

Keith Harper Transport Editor

PLAN unveiled yesterday to speed the switch of freight from road to rail would require 150 bridges between the English Channel and Glasgow to be raised by up to six inches.

An alternative for some bridges, says a consortium in-volving Eurotunnel, P&O and Railtrack, would be to lower the track, which could be

more expensive.
The Piggyback Consortium, so-called because lorry trailers would be loaded on to lowslung wagons, believes its plan could mean 400,000 such trailers carried on the rall-ways each year by 2003. Neil Kinnock, the Europ Transport Commissioner, who attended the unveiling

ceremony at London's St Pancras station, believes the plan could spur a huge switch

careful work. Railtrack, which would be in charge of the operation, said that arched bridges would require most attention.

The first tests have been completed, and an evaluation has been carried out by Rail-track. Its predecessor, British Rail, sniffed at the idea, which has taken three years

to reach this stage.

The system would be the first lift-on, lift-off piggyback service using low-slung wag-ons between Glasgow and the south coast, with feeder routes from Liverpool, Manchester and Irish ports. It would allow the transportstion of lorry trailers without their drivers or cabs.

But there is a snag: not even the members of the conortium can agree on the likely cost.
The Piggyback chairman,
Lord Berkeley, put the figure
at £100 million. Railtrack said

2310 million. to rail freight.

Raising a bridge is not a costly exercise, but requires

Lord Berkeley is threatening to take the matter to the rail regulator, John Swift.

ment and Letters 8;

## The Guardian

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites - an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.

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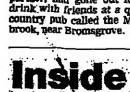
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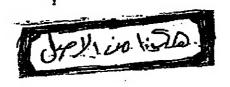
A couple who wed after meeting in a . mental hospital tried to kill a taxu driver during their honeymoon, a court was told yesterday...

**World News** Rwandan-backed rebels in eastern Zaire were making tapid new gains as retreating government soldiers raped and footed. .

house prices last month sperked fears that Kenneth Clarke could raise interest rates next week to... brake the recovery:

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Obituaries 10 word 15: Weather 16 Radio 16; TV 16



#### Sketch

# in the suburbs



Simon Hoggart

HERE are only six Tory MPs in Wales, of whom three are ministers, two are ex-ministers, and one has a majority of 19, fewer than the total number of Welsh

Labour MPs. For this reason, William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, is from Yorkshire. (Mr Hague is a fan of Meatloaf, whose last hit -- I'd Lie For You, And That's The Truth should be the politicians' anthem, since it expresses their conviction that fibbing to the voters is justified in the wider public interest getting themselves re-elected.)

The youngest cabinet min-ister since Harold Wilson, Mr Hague is tipped as a Future Tory Leader. This should not be confused with being Tory Leader. They are quite separate jobs. Neither Alec Douglas-Home, Margaret Thatcher nor John Major were Future Tory Leaders, whereas a host of people such as Willie Whitelaw, Michael Heseltine, Doug-las Hurd, Norman Tebbit and Reggie Maudling all held the ceremonial post of Future

For that reason, Mr Hague must be supported as befits his status. Three backbenchers are not enough. It would be the equivalent of a chauffeur-

driven bike. So Tory MPs have to be bussed in to sit behind him and ask lickspittle questions. Since Welsh Questions are always on a Monday, and many MPs prefer not to turn up until Tuesday lunchtime, the

Tories tend to be drawn from the leafter suburbs of London. But what stirring echoes they bring! Here is John Marshall of Hendon South asking about the foreign investment which has been pouring into Wales. Who could fail to be thrilled by the sight of Mr Marshall leading the Hendon Male Voice Choir, massed atop the Valleys of Hendon, in a chorus of Men of Hendon?

Or Lady Olga Maitland (Sut-ton and Cheam), who by a strange coincidence also asked about the foreign investasked about the foreign invest-ment pouring into Wales. To me Lady Oiga will always be the pinched, hollow-eyed woman, old beyond her years, in mob cap and shawl, waiting — hopelessly, desperately— outside the colliery gates after the Great Cheam Pit Disaster of 1989.

Hugh Dykes of Harrow East joined forces with Robert Hughes of Harrow West to ask Mr Hague about Labour's pro-posed Weish assembly and the disasters it will wreak upon the people of the principality. Ah, Harrow, where the blast furnaces stand like the senti-nels of Hades, and wiry, muscular, coal-smeared young men such as Dykes and Hughes played rugby among the cinders and dreamed one day of taking the field at Finchley Arms Park (with Hartley Booth, who dwelt upon the Government's splen-did record on urban regenera-

tion in Wales).

Dafydd Wigley (PC, Caernarfon) was furious and complained that all these planted questions, from Tories who hardly know where Wales is, and who raised only two brown-nosing topics, had stopped real Welsh MPs ask-ing real Welsh questions.

The Deputy Speaker asked why, if these were so urgent, only 15 opposition MPs had tabled any.

Mr Wigley was infuriated and continued raving long after he'd been told to sit

down. And the Deputy Speak-er's figure was wrong: only 13 opposition MPs had obliged. Aha! A Yuletide invitation has just landed on my desk. "Misteltoe (sic) Holly, etc" it

reads, verbatim. "Invite to Newsteams [sic]: Christmas drinks and nibbles (IN-for-mail) With Michael Pabricant. Friday 13th (occops!) December, 12.30pm, Lichfield . . . "the booze will flow like water" . . . " How very kind! After all the rude things I've written about him. And how sad that a prior

engagement makes it impossi-ble for me to attend. It sounds more fun than the British Comedy Awards, and even

A colleague points out that the invitation is photocopied and so may not be to me personally. Ha, a snub! Very well I shall go anyway.

#### Review

## A good deal too soft on the inside

Lyn Gardner Inside Trading

ALCOLM Bradbury has professed himself disenchanted with his first stage play for 30 years. He is clearly more than a mite disenchanted with the

City, too. But aren't we all? Inside Trading, set in the offices of Battenburgs, an ancient merchant bank that has still not come to terms with the Big Bang and the fact that it has been overrun by whiz-kids from Chingford, is

loosely based on an obscure German play by Paul Vulpius Vulpius's comedy, premiered in Berlin during the summer of 1933 shortly after Hitler was appointed Chancel lor, was set against the back-ground of a society ravaged by conomic depression, Bradbury's play is set in the boom time of global markets where sharksters in Armani suits trade in futures like there's no tomorrow, and billions are made or lost in the flicker of a

computer screen. It is, of course, one massive confidence trick, an illusion in which no money changes hands and where one trader's success is another's failure. Your security is our confidence" is the meaningless

motto of Battenbergs. Nobody understands this so well as the smart-suited Tim Wickerman, one of the great army of the 1990s unemploye who turns up uninvited at the bank one day and soon makes himself so indispensable that the board can do what they do best -dine at Boodle's and

White's and pass the buck

along with the port.

Bradbury spins some agreeable jokes about the City, and pokes gentle fun at institutions such as Barings, run like Victorian gentlemen's clubs, where greed is disguised by good manners and breeding alued more than competence Is he really one of us?" is the oft repeated boardroom cry.

But while Bradbury's cen-tral idea of a scam — to get bank and government to join in partnership to build a city of the future to celebrate the millennium — is a potent one the satire is over-tempered Inside Trading is an old-

fashioned comedy of manners which throws the odd nod in seems stuck in a time warp when we were all still surprised by computers and mo-bile phones. It is almost entirely lacking in the biting wit or rising bile seen in the Jaco-bean City Comedies or in plays by 1980s exponents of the genre such as Tony Marchant and Caryl Churchill. If bankers flocked to see Serious Money, they will be scram-bling over each other to be flattered by inside Trading, play that turns hypocrisy into an amusing little foible.

The lack of a specific setting (the odd reference to Kevin Maxwell and Ford open prison is not enough to con-jure a whole culture where dishonesty is the norm) and the comedy's soft moral cen-tre ensure that its impact is

severely limited. Like the writing, Henry Burke's production is slickly enjoyable, but one longs for omething tougher, rougher

#### French boats defy Channel Islands' ban on fishing

TEN French fishing boats defled a Guernsey han yesterday and entered a restricted area of Channel Islands waters.

The only official Channel Islands presence was that of Mr Ozanne and his colleagues

lands waters. Fisheries inspectors from Guernsey led by a senior offi-cer, Stephen Ozanne, took the seis' names but no acrests

The fishermen, from the Normandy port of Granville. were accompanied by a warning on Sunday.

in a chartered motorboat. Although British authorities say they have no plans to arrest the fishermen, a Guernsey politician, Ron Le Guernsey politician, Ron Le the semi-professional Moignan, issued a strong Shotts Bon Accord junior

Crowd of 70,000 defies Belgrade police as international condemnation puts president on defensive

## Keep a welcome Serb leader starts retreat

## **Protest** will go on, vow people

Julian Berger in Belgrade and Ian Black in Lisbon

dent Slobodan Milosevic, was forced on to the retreat at home and abroad yesterday as 70,000 demonstra-tors marched through Belgrade, defying a threatened police crackdown, and foreign leaders attacked his government for annulling opposition wins in local elections.

A mile-long procession opposition supporters walked through Belgrade in heavy snow waving at policemen and presenting them with flowers. The police, who on Sunday said they would no longer stand by and watch "violent and illegal" protests, said they had arrested only 28 people for causing damage or disruption.

The opposition vowed to maintain its campaign until the government acknowliged election victories in 15 cities last month.

Vuk Draskovic, of the Ser-bian renewal movement, said that protesters would not res-pond to police force with vio-lence of their own. "If Milosevic is getting

ready to create a tragedy, we will not reply. We will meet any violent provocation with songs and sit-ins." Serbia also came under fire at the Organisation for Secu-

rity and Co-operation in Europe summit in Lisbon yesterday where Carl Bildt, the high representative for Bos-nia, issued a strongly-worded statement on the "major and serious crisis" which he said could threaten regional sta bility — a warning which will resonate on the eve of tomorrow's London conference on

prospects for peace. The Foreign Secretary, Malolm Riffrind, and the United States vice-president, Al Gore, called for Serbia to

espect democracy. In an apparent government climbdown yesterday the scheduled convening of the Serbian parliament and a disputed local assembly in the second city of Nis were post-poned after the opposition threatened to make them the focus of protest actions.

Opposition leaders lined up negrin parliamentary to pour scorn on Mr Tomic's speaker, Zvetozar Marovic, remarks and to turn them to said yesterday: "No one has As they have done every evening for two weeks. outside the offices of the Zajedno (Together) coalition in central Belgrade. They fired headquarters, Mr Draskovic said: "[Tomic] called the citi-zens of Belgrade fascists ... flares into the falling snow, He spat on our past ... the

turning the sky pink. A vitriolic government attack on Sunday appeared to have backfired. Dragan Tomic, the parliamentary speaker and a senior Socialist official, had appeared on television vilifying the demon-strators as "fascists" and comparing Zajedno's tactics to Hitler's.

their advantage. Looking the right to change the will of down on the crowd from the people regardless of whether fourth-floor of the Zajedno it is done by the authority or

biggest insult in our history." Even normally compliant est insult in our history." officials in Montenegro (which with Serbia consti-tutes federal Yugoslavia), were yesterday distancing themselves from Mr Milosevic's government. The Monte-

the opposition

Students offer flowers to Belgrade police as protesters continue to call for the resignation of the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic Photoss,

He took the opportunity to send a warning to Mr Milose vic over his reported ambi-tions to graduate from the Serbian to the Yugoslav presiothers as the embodiment

dency. Such a move, Mr Marovic said, "is seen by some as the only, solution but by too much power concentrated in the hands of one person."



# Policy change on euro sought by Sceptics 'quite preposterous' Sceptics 'quite preposterous' So good", and fellow sceptics claimed that Mr Clarke's cautious behaviour amounted to a victory for their latest campaign. But Westminster was last night trigger his departure, despite the inevitable charges of treachery. Iohn Palmer in Brussels and Michael White meeting of EU finance ministers with the "copper-bottomed assurances" that Britain would not be disciplined Major is again edging in Brussels. "It would be no towards an emphatic No to way to ficht an election page in

HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night issued a veiled threat to resign from the Cabinet if John Major buckles to renewed pressure from Tory Euro-scep-tics to rule out membership of the proposed European single currency for the lifetime of the

ext parliament.
"The Prime Minister and I were on a public platform together at the Tory party conference about six weeks ago actually uniting our party around a sensible policy which we made clear we thought was in the national interests," Mr Clarke de-clared in Brussels, as rumour of a fresh anti-European putsch resurfaced in the To underpin his assertion

that it would be "quite pre-posterous" to reverse the cabiner's policy of keeping op-tions open, Mr Clarke emerged from yesterday's

— or even fined — under the so-called stability pact under-pinning single currency embership. "I said I would get copperbottomed wording in order to make it clear what in my

opinion was always the case, that these EMU regulations did not apply to the UK," Mr Clarke said. "I got it this morning, I have to say without any particular difficulty." EU ministers are edging towards a deal for next week's Dublin summit whereby countries with excess deficits (above 3 per cent of GDP) face escalating fines unless gripped by severe depression. The key remaining issue is whether a slump is rigidly de-

whether a stump is rightly be-fined as a dip of 2 per cent of output, the German view, or more flexibly as France— and Britain—prefer.

Mr Clarke's former Treasury colleague, David Heath-cost-Amory, later said "so far,

rumour—officially denied by Downing Street— that Mr Major is again edging towards an emphatic No to the euro, which sceptics believe would be a vote-winner.

Government whips and some cabinet sceptics dismissed the new campaign as media-inspired, but Conservative Central Office — iden tified by the Daily Telegraph as backing a switch on

Europe — was uncharacteris-tically silent.

Most cabinet ministers, a mixture of rightwingers and pragmatists, are said to back a change, with even Michael He-seltine, an ardent European, allegedly "persuadable". The only problem is that the formidable Mr Clarke

would almost certainly resign rather than accept another messy retreat which he believes to be against both national and party interest. Ahead of an election, that would wreak havoc among moderate Tory voters.

Even a last-minute switch

way to fight an election nor to present yourself to the country as a governing party at all." Asked if he might resign he said: "I think our policy is quite clear and overwhelmingly in Britain's

"We should exercise our choice whether or not we rency when we discover whether the single currency is going ahead, and when we discover who is going to join it, and when we discove what the detailed terms are, said Mr Clarke, who ap confident that his deal with Mr Major would stick.

Other EU governments are so many Tory Euro-sceptics could have seriously sup-posed Britain would be bound by the EMU project rules.

Pound breaks mark barrier; Notabook, page 11

Doctor over the moon as he is cleared of misconduct after flu scam that left footballers sick as parrots and out of the cup

Vivek Chaudhary

A FOOTBALL club doctor who admitted signing false sick notes for eight players to get a crucial cup game postponed avoided the red card yesterday charge of serious professional misconduct.

Mohammed Muquit, aged 57, of Lanarkshire, signed the sick notes for players of football cinb. without ex-

The club was said to have been worried about losing the tle and handed in the eight sick notes to the Scot-tish Junior Football Assocation (SJPA), causing the

the to be postponed.

The GMC was told by Barrie Richards, Dr Muquit's counsel, that he is not a football fan and that amining them, stating that they had fin, the General his professional services were called on infrequently Medical Council (GMC) heard yesterday.

The GMC was told that two of the players were out of the country when Dr Muquit signed the sick notes but that he had no idea that the fire conderne was heing by the club. Ms Richards said the doc-tor admitted that his con-

duct might have fallen short of that expected of a practitioner but it was not the fin epidemic was being staged: Shotts Bon Accord, one serious professional nisconduct. o serious as to amount to serious teams, were reigning cup champions who had been

"There is no evidence that he knew anything was being singed and there was drawn against lowly Thor-niewood on Hogmanay two also no evidence that he

The GMC was told that Dr Muquit signed the notes when there was a fin epi-demic in Lanarkshire and that some of the players in-volved were "admitted liars" who said they

The committee cleared him but, while Dr Muquit was celebrating yesterday's result, Shotts Bon Accord are still paying the price for the flu fixing scandal. The club were fined 2500 by the SJFA and thrown out of

the cup.

They later had the cup ban lifted and won back the 2500, but the SJFA banned them from all football for a

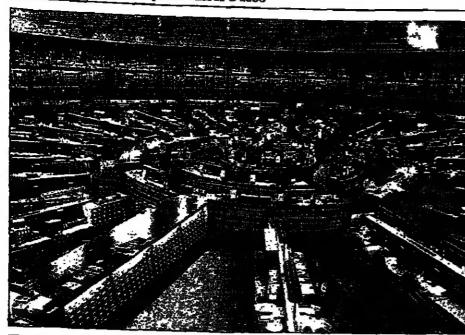
When they resumed playing, they were forced to move down to the Central

JOHN PEEL'S VIEW FAMILY LIFE.

on life and the world of broadcasting. you his alternative view Every week in Radio Times, John Peel gives

Kadiolimes

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.



## £511m library gets a book at last

#### John Ezard on a welcome new passage in a 44-year saga of delays and increasing costs

T TOOK 44 years and 2511 the image of a mega-British million to get the first little book three-quarters of Although the book is out of a mile from the British
Museum to its new home
Suston Road in Euston Road, central Lon-

don, yesterday. At 9.30am the first of 5,600 van journeys drove it, seeled like other books in bubblewrap, to an unloading bay. There staff brought its pallet by lift to the basement, where librarians took over.

They unpacked it, working to a computer generated plan. Then — ceremonially and with some reverence — the chief executive, Dr Brian

The book preserves a medieval folk song which asks:
What's the tife of a man, any more than a leaf/For a man has a season and why should

he gricoe?
This lyric of mutability now lives in a computermaintained temperature of 16C, with 60 degrees of humidity — conditions theo-retically calculated to preserve its pages for ever, as a good library should try to

And so the Oxford Book Of English Traditional Verse became the first volume to go on the shelves of the British Library: a small, inaugural moment of British success in a

of preparing the ungainly site at St Pancras to receive it was beyond the price of rubles. But the British Library had begun to do its job.
Finishing the job — the big-

gest book move in history — will take a daily staff of 40 the equivalent of three working ifetimes. Their task of shifting 12 million items in 600,000 stude of people using it."

The historian Lady Antonia Fraser, his wife, said: "This is a very exciting and significant step. I shall hope to be planned to arrive at the end of the first to come and ing 12 million items in 600,000 crateleads is due to last until 1999, the year the building

1997. Observers view this forecast. like so many others from the library, as possibly optimistic.
"It's a complex process

not like stacking the shelves of a supermarket," Dr Lang

The library's cargo, includ-ing Magna Carta, the Guten-berg Bible and Shakespeare's First Folio, will travel to 200 miles of white metal shelving by unmarked van to discourage ambush attempts. The most sizeable treasure is the six-feet Klencke Atlas, the smallest a thumb-sized New

Oxford's folk songs anthology was in a first batch of: 2,500 British, European and

greet it was a batch of sterminedly upbest literati — including the crime novel-

"The library will be a temple to books, a great centre for learning and creativity and sheer reading pleasure,"

she said.
"After long delays and all sorts of difficulties and controversies we are here very happily to see the books put on the shelves."

Harold Pinter, gazing at the

plle about which Prince Charles asked "How can you tell it's a library?" said: "It is a very elegant building and I look forward to seeing thou-

one of the first to come and work here."

Dr Leng called it a flagship.
"The problems are behind us now," he said.

Visitors yesterday noticed a soundproof, glassed-off sec-tion in the rare books reading

It was designed decades ago to mute the din of a typing pool, in the era before planners foresaw quiet computer

keyboards. If Dr Lang's confidence about the future is vindi-cated, the section will stand as a memorial to the library's old planning disasters, just as the installation of the Oxford hook is meant as a symbol of its determination to succeed

The first readers are due to enter the library late next year

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

## **Lords defeat** vetting plan in Police Bill

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

SUCCESSFUL allparty revolt in the House of Lords last night struck down plans by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to charge for official vetting on the criminal backgrounds of mil-lions of voluntary charity

The 137-135 vote rebellion The 137-135 vote rebellion was led by the former House of Commons Speaker, Lord Weatherill, and came during the committee stage of the Police Bill.

Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat peers, backed by two bishops, voiced the compaints of charities including

plaints of charities including the Scouts, the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the National Trust and many child welfare organisations that charges would have a devastating impact on the vol-

untary movement.
The defeat came on a key section of the legislation set-ting up a self-financing Criminal Records Agency and was the first the Government has suffered in the new parlia-mentary session. John Ma-jor's rapidly shrinking Comons majority will make it difficult to overturn.

The Lords voted to exempt

those who volunteer for regis-tered charities from paying the £8-to-£10 fee to be charged for the proposed "enhanced criminal record certificate". This will be issued to those who want to work unsuper-vised with children and will list not only their past convictions but also cautions, charges and any other information from local police files.

The Women's Royal Volun-tary Service has estimated it would cost £1.25 million to carry out checks on its existing 125,000 volunteers and a further £100,000 a year for new recruits.

The decision to extend

recommendation by Lord Culen's inquiry into the Dungreater vetting of those who work with children.

However, Mr Howard's decision to make individual volunteers or charities pay contradicts Lord Cullen's report, which says it is "very impor-tant that charges are kept within the limits of what organisations can afford". He said that if necessary the Government should subsidise

Lady Blatch, said last night it was officially estimated that the £40 million to £200 million cost of the checks on up to 20 million volunteers would fall on the taxpayer or other job seekers if the charity exemp-tion was allowed to stand.

"The vast majority of vol-unteers will be happy to pay this modest fee. Free checks for volunteers would double the cost of certificates for the others who would have to pay, some of whom are unemployed," said Lady Blatch. But Lord Weatherill,

backed by several Tory peers, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Bishops of Coventry and Lincoln, said the charges would place an intolerable fi-pancial burden on charities "It is accepted good prac-

tice that volunteers should not be out of pocket by volun-teering," said Lord Weather-ill, who argued that the charges would undermine the Government's attempts to encourage the voluntary

There would be intense pressure on charities from insurers and trustees to make the voluntary checks manda-tory to ensure they were not left open to accusations that they had not taken all poss-ible steps to protect the chil-dren or vulnerable people in their care. A Home Office spokes-

woman said last night that ministers would consider the impact of the amendment. criminal record checks to The House of Lords will next charity workers follows a consider the Police Bill in January.

#### Explorers to keep Shell cash despite environment fears

Paul Brown Environment Correspon

graphical Society voted last night to keep Shell sponsor-ship, despite a protest by 1,500 members over the company's activities in Nigeria.

The 78 per cent vote ends months of wrangling after a 200-10 vote at the annual conference in January to end the

relationship with Shell.
Earl Jellicoe, president of the society, appealed to members to keep the £45,000-a-year sponsorship, fearing other in-dustrial backers would take right and withdraw a total of £160,000, leaving the society strapped for cash.

Corporate sponsors enabled the society to influence company environment policies and social awareness. In any case, ated case" had not been made against Shell, he said.

The society's ruling council has set up an ethical committee, chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell, to monitor the activities of corporate sponsors.

Josephine Longberg, one of the fellows at last night's meeting, said: "I came to vote to get rid of Shell but was persuaded

future behaviour." The society had organised the vote at its London head-

quarters after the membership forced a special general meet ing. About 500 attended last night's meeting with most of the votes coming by post. The society, still the home of Britain's explorers, used the

Shell money to finance expeditions. Last January feelings were running high at the annual meeting when the organisation had just amalgamated with the institute of British Geographers. In order to deflect criticism,

the council organised a day-long debate at Easter but this failed to defuse the row, and younger fellows forced the

special general meeting.

In a message to members before the vote they said: "Allowing Shell to continue as a sponpression that the kind of environmental despoliation ex corporate behaviour. Sbell's reputation has been so sev-erely damaged both in the Third World and among environmental groups globally that Shell's continued association with the RGS-IBG seriously threatens the academic integ-

• Controversy first surfaces in 1952 over a former County of London plan to extend the British Muse-um's library facilities to nearby Bloomsbury Square A decade on, the row heats up amid claims that 1,000 Londoners will be forced to bandon their homes.

• By the late 1960s the Bloomsbury Square plan is shelved as the Government considers other sites.

 A new decade and a notso-new plan — a new British Library to be built on the seven-acre Bloomsbury Square site within 13 years for £36 million, architect Colin St John Wilson.

 The first hint that delay will be inextricably linked with the project comes in 1973 as councils repeat obctions to the Bloomsbury site and the cost, treble the original estimate, threatens the scheme.

· A year on the Government concedes defeat and selects a larger site between Euston and St Pancras



Colin St John Wilson: asked to design library in 1970s

start in 1979 with a completion date of 1990 and a total cost of £164 million. By 1979 estimated costs

spiral above £200 million; leading academics question the wisdom of the scheme.

 In 1982 construction begins on Britain's largest civic building, with plans at the time for 350 miles of shelving and space for 20 million books. By the late fire for being too modern,

too concrete, too box-like

· Amid criticism by the Vetional Audit Com of the Government's handling of the project, the tax-payer is forced to fork out a further £150 million in 1990, bringing the total to £450 million.

■ In 1991 the provisional 1998 opening is set back a year: mechanical shelving is spewing books on to the floor, ceilings are too low and wiring is faulty.

 Another year, another Government inquiry slates the now 2500 million cost. The completion date creeps forward from 1996 to 1997.

 Yesterday, as British Library chief executive Brian Lang proclaims problems are a thing of the past, the first two crates of books ar-rive, 5,000 literary works from the British Museum shelves. With the humansties reading room set to be opened by the Queen next November, the last crate of books will be unloaded in



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## 32 have hospital check in disease alert

Geoffrey Gibbs on latest moves in the Cardiff university meningitis outbreak

students showing possible signs of meningitis were admitted to hospital terday as the names were released of the two 19-year-old students at the University of Wales who have died from the

They were Ann-Marie Secretary, William Hague, O'Connor, a first-year law said it could take several don, and Samantha Milroy tion into the outbreak was from Stockport, Cheshire, complete. Meanwhile, he was who was in the first year of a confident health and univer-

IRTY-TWO more third is critical in intensive **Health** officials stressed

last night that no further cases of the disease had been Eight of those admitted to hospital as a precautionary

discharged.

In the Commons, the Weish student from Acton, west Lon- weeks before a full investigaof three other students being treated for meningitis, two are recovering and the infection.



Heidi Mann, who was visiting her student sister, gets an injection at one of the halls of residence

He told MPs that the Welsh | at the hall in the past two Office's chief medical officer | weeks. | Worried students beseiged sess the situation.

"Contrary to some press reports, she indicates that the atmosphere, though tense and understandably sober, does not demonstrate any panic.

The students are behaving very responsibly," he said.
The outbreak is centred on the University Hall residential building about four miles from the main campus. Around 90 per cent of the 770 students living at the hall have now been vaccinated and a programme has been extended to include guests

nformation assistants from the National Meningitis Trust outside the university's students' union building in the centre of Cardiff yesterday. Louise Thomas, one of four

volunteers manning the trust's mobile vehicle, said that there had been a con-stant stream of young people seeking advice about how the disease was passed on and whether they should be

By yesterday evening stu-dents had taken more than 2,400 leaflets giving advice

After stopping at the van to undergraduate studying anpick up an information leafcient history, had meningitis let, Gabriella Orologa, a as a baby and wanted to know second-year journalism student from Greece, complained that students were not getting enough information from the

university "We don't know what the extent of the problem is and I think everybody should be careful. I asked my GP if I could have antibiotics and he said yes, but when I called the university they said, no, un-less you live in University

"I am not in any sort of pan-ic but if I can do anything to protect myself I will."

whether she might have de veloped an immunity.
They said it was possible I

might have built up an immunity, but there are no guaran-"I think people have been

feeling a bit lost up to now," she said after talking to a trust volunteer have the leaflet to know what the symptoms are. I am feel-

Lectures and seminars were continuing to take place as normal at the university



Victim: Samantha Milroy, studying pharmacy



Victim: Ann-Marie O'Connor, law student

## French police check on 'cheap' British labour

Paul Webster in Paris

RENCH police are investigating a cross-Channel traffic in cheap labour for building works, and say that British subcontractors involved are flouting French and European social protec-

The traffic was highlighted contractor said he could find istrate that it was easy to find unemployed Britons who would work in France for £33 a day, less what he took off them for accommodation. Yesterday a letter was pub-

lished sent from a British firm to French construction companies saying that Brit-ons were ready to work at least 50 hours a week, includ-ing weekends, and forgo Police said yesterday that at least 14 cases of exploited

British work gangs were under investigation in the Pas de Calais, the Lille area, and Normandy.

Most were similar to a case

at Argentan, Normandy, where a British subcontractor, Robert Butcher, was fined more than £20,000 and given a year's suspended jail sent the letter was from a recruittence for flouting French and European labour laws.

Norfolk, which appears to have gone out of business or

Butcher, who gave his adress under cover. Headed Domas as Dunsfold, Surrey, did not Bau Limited, and signed by a

being released from prison on bail equivalent to his fine.

But they quoted remarks he public works company, Dumade to an examining magistrate after gendarmes checked workers on a road Britons working Illegally. Mr Butcher was accused of

failing to provide social security and pay slips, and failing to pay taxes. He told the magjobless men ready to work for 300 francs a day, £33, because Butcher said he recruited in pubs, and toured sites in France offering workers for hire. He told the magistrate

his methods were "common practice" in Britain. The prosecution claimed that the use of British work-ers undercut the price of subcontracted work by 60 per cent compared to offers made

by legitimate French firms. The letter was published by the communist daily, L'Humanité, which coupled it

mez. It was allegedly a copy of letters sent to other large firms. Although French legislation restricts working time to 39 hours, the letter, written in French, said that "our least 50 hours a week — work-ing Saturday and Sunday is

Scho

no problem and, in fact, they prefer this." The firm, which asked to be paid weekly, promised to take care of lodgings and transport but assured French employers that the "appropriate legislation concerning these workers is British law. French law cannot be used in opposition". As a postscript, the firm said it charged 145 francs, £19, an hour per recruit but gave no

indication of bow much workers would get. The employment ministry said the conditions contravened many regulations. Special permission had to be obtained for overtime, and this was more difficult since the European Union intro-duced a maximum 48 hour week in November. "The claim that British labour laws can be applied here is non-sense," an official said. "Only territorial legislation is valid unless it is overtaken by European rulings."

#### 'If you are going to get paid rubbish you might as well stay here where you can understand the language'

undercut the wages of his French colleagues at the hands of an unscrupulous employer because he is a man of principle. The principle is that he does not like the

French, writes Gary Younge.
"Twe never been keen on them really. They think too much of themselves. Like with those lorry drivers and that strike two weeks ago. I don't think I could stomach working with people who carry on like that," said the fitter, who was working on a building site in Guildford

yesterday. In the city, which is only a short drive away from the

REVOR Davis would not | courts and where he may cross the Channel to | have done much of his have done much of his recruiting, it was difficult to find a labourer yesterday who would have been willing to take up his offer. "If you're going to get paid rub-bish you might as well stay

here, where you can under-stand the language," said Mr Davis.
Xenophobia aside, there were few qualms about the morality of his offers; only shock about the rates of pay he was offering and the gen-eral inconvenience of mov-

ing abroad. "I'm quite happy just plodding along here really but I suppose we all have to look out for number one. I life isn't it," said Bryan, an

electrician. Their reluctance might explain why employers like Cuomo and Butcher recruited not on work sites, but in pubs. For while most labourers insisted that they would never be jured away by an employer like Butcher themselves, nearly all of them knew people who

The big surprise was not that they were going abroad to be exploited but that Butcher's cargo should have headed for France, when wages in Germany and Scandinavia can under-cut the local rate and still be

relatively high.
"You've just got to be
young and desperate really.
If you've got no family and you're not trained, any amount of money sounds good I suppose." said Mr Davis. "I mean £33 a day might not mean much to me short drive sway from the address subcontractor Robert Butcher gave the French if they did it to us but that's you're working," be said.

### Judge expresses shame over race attack

Denis Staunton in Berlin

A GERMAN judge said yesterday he felt ashamed on behalf of his community as he jailed two young rightwingers for a racist attack that left a Birmingham building worker paralysed for life.

Mario Poetter, aged 24, and Sandro Ristau. aged 18, were

paralysed from the neck down. The car carrying him and two other Britons hit a tree and overturned after the Germans threw a rock through the rear window during a car chase outside Mahlow in the eastern state of Brandenburg last June.

Judge Claus Przybilla said at the Poisdam court: "We are ashamed of the many cases of low next year to confront his behalf of his community as he jailed two young rightwingers ing a car chase outside Mahfor a racist attack that left a low in the eastern state of Brandenburg last June.

Judge Claus Przybilla said at the Potsdam court: "We are ashamed of the many cases of sentenced to eight and five Brandenburg."

The point is that I've got a life sentence." Mr Martin can now claim compensation from the German criminal injuries compensation board. He hopes to return to Mahsenters in a car chase outside Mahsen in the German criminal injuries compensation board. He hopes to return to Mahsen in a shamed of the many cases of stupid xenophobia in Brandenburg." Birmingham building worker paralysed for life,
Mario Poetter, aged 24, and
Sandro Ristau, aged 18, were sentenced to eight and five years respectively for reck-less driving and causing grievous bodily harm to Noel Martin, aged 37, who was branched in the possibility of the many cases of stupid xenophobia in Brandenburg. Mr Martin, who is due to be discharged from hospital in people because of their race or colour."



Vivek Chaudhary on trail of terror in Hampshire

# Honeymoon ended in kidnapping



## Couple met and married in psychiatric unit

married in a men-tal hospital and then while on hon-eymoon kidnapped and stabbed a taxi driver and

and standed a tax in river and kidnapped a six-year-old boy, a court was told yesterday.

Douglas Byelong, aged 56, and his wife Julie, aged 26, also stabbed and killed a dog.

They were ordered to be detained in a mental hospital by tained in a mental hospital by Mr Justice Mantell after they admitted at Winchester crown court the kidnap of the taxi driver, Mark Slater, an offence of affray, and the kid-

nap of the boy.

The court heard that the couple met at the psychiatric unit of the Whittingham hospital, near Preston, Lancashire, where both were pa-tients. They married last May. Richard Onslow, prose-cuting, said: "They met and married in a mental institution. He took her away on honeymoon.

"In the next few days he decided a number of people should be killed, and the trail of carnage they left be-

Byelong, a former Broad-moor patient diagnosed as having a paranoid psychosis, was released into the commu-nity soon after his marriage. wife absconded two months later to join her hus-band on a "honeymoon" riage, she was given permis-sion for her half-hour walk in the hospital grounds to be extended to one hour.

Mr Onslow told the court

that the couple, both armed with knives, kidnapped Mr Slater, aged 29, after calling his cab to a pub near Petersfield in Hampshire, last July. They forced him to drive to

Salisbury where he was stabbed and his vehicle taken. They drove to a Hampshire village, Shipton Bellinger, where they stabbed to death a white cocker spaniel and then kidnapped a six-year-old boy, who had been playing on his

pursuing police used spikes in the road to stop the car, and arrested the couple. Mr Justice Mantell made ar

interim hospital order against the woman and made another order against her husband ensuring that he is

Mr Mantell told him: "It i not my intention to recount the catalogue of wicked, terrifying things you have done.
"It is essential you should not be released unless exceptional circumstances arise." The court was told that the taxi driver has not been able to

than a year when she met work since the attack, while the boy had nightmares and Byelong, a former printing engineer. He had first been had lost trust in "small sectioned in 1968 following a women", including his mother.
Julie Byelong has been in conviction for arson. After three years in Broad

tals since her late teens. She pital, he was transferred to a had been resident at the Whittingham hospital for more in 1991.

rehabilitation centre in Chichester, but was sent back to Broadmoor after escaping His first marriage had been

Landlord Lee Turland with his father, Arthur, at the Boot Inn from where the boy was kidnapped

dissolved, and his romance with Julie developed as both were being prepared for Their marriage took place at | Preston register office and was attended by hospital staff

Julie's father, William Cardwell, said that when his daughter met Byelong the family thought that the relationship might help

"At that point I thought he had given our Julie some help," Mr Cardwell said. "She seemed much better, both mentally and physically." Rosemary Tetlow, whose

cocker spaniel, Bramble, was killed, said yesterday the cou-

## Schoolgirl 'kick killers' get two years

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vears' detention.

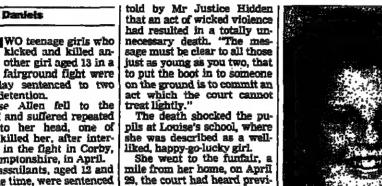
Louise Allen fell to the ground and suffered repeated kicks to her head, one of which killed her, after intervening in the fight in Corby, Northamptonshire, in April.

Her assailants, aged 12 and 13 at the time, were sentenced at Nottingham crown court after admitting manslaughter at a previous hearing.

The dead girl's mother. Ellen Allen, was in court yesterday. Afterwards she said she had expected the two to serve at least four or five years in detention.

The girls, who cannot be

GAME



The court was told she then fell to the ground and was kicked. A witness heard someone shout: "What have

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ously. During the evening the 12-year-old girl picked a fight with one of Louise's friends. As a crowd gathered, Louise tried to pull the girl off her friend, and the 13-year-old grabbed Louise by the hair.

you done?" The 13-year-old | after leaving the funfair, the | was "an unlucky chance replied that she did not really other the next day. According such a kick had killed care. The 12-year-old then to a pathologist, Louise had The court was told in the uso kicked her. seven bruises on her head but two girls' defence that both further help following yester-One girl was arrested hours only the largest was fatal; it had been bullied at school, day's events.



Louise Allen, and fellow pupils paying tribute to her after her death in a fight in April

and since the death had shown remorse. The night at the fair had been a silly schoolgirl scuffle in which normally no one would have been hurt, said Martin Heslop

tressed and throughout the time she has been in custody struggled in an attempt to come to terms with what has happened. She has shown a sincere and great remorse." James Hunt QC, for the 12year-old, said her father had written to her school saying she was being bullied. Mr Hunt told the court: "She is and was a little girl."

Last night Father Niall Sheridan, chairman of the governors of Louise's school said that pupils had needed counselling after the death, and he expected many to seek gruntled students.

## Insurers pledge to resist lawsuits on exam results

OCAL authority insur ance companies yester day promised vigorous resistance in the courts to litigation by pupils seeking compensation from their schools after failing to achieve good enough exam results.

Zurich Municipal, the largest local government insurer, said it had a duty to policyholders to avoid out-of-court settlements which might encourage a further rash of speculative claims by dis-

Jack Rabinowicz, a London solicitor, disclosed at the veekend that he was bringing cases on behalf of two 17-yearolds who claim they were let down by their respective schools. Both of the schools concerned had been criticised by the inspectorate for 'failing to provide a satisfactory

education".
This provoked anxiety among local authority leaders their public liability insurers might settle to avoid costly the Royal SunAlliance recommended a £30,000 pay-out to another client of Mr Ra-binowicz, who claimed damages for the bullying he alleg-edly experienced at Shene School in the London borough

of Richmond. A spokeswoman for Zurich Municipal said the company suade the courts that schools should not be legally liable for

pupils' exam results.
"We don't believe there is a solid foundation in law for opening the floodgates to simllar actions. We would defend them in the courts." A spokesman for Royal

defend actions of this sort. inspection process."

the circumstances, but as a matter of principle we would contest them."

The National Governors' Council called on the Department for Education and Employment for urgent clarification of the legal position. "A whole range of cases is lining up and will be tested to the limit at the expense of schools which cannot afford the time or the money to contest

them," it said.
The Legal Aid Board corrected reports that Mr Rabinowicz had aiready secured legal aid for the two 17-year-olds in the latest case.

Applicants had to prove fi-nancial eligibility and show there were reasonable pros-pects of the case succeeding. The board "cannot differentiate between applicants be-cause we think the decision to grant legal aid will be unpop ular or lead to similar claims", it said.

David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said the law relating to school inspecand school governors that tion might have to changed. It was not acceptable that a report revealing faults at a school could be used for legal action against it. The Office for Standards in

Education said its officials were re-examining the wording of reports on failing schools, but no imediate changes were likely.

Julian Gizzi, head of the education law department at City solicitors, Beachcroft Stanley, said the case was an example of a worrying trend towards nuisance litigation.

Clive Lewis, a barrister specialising in local authority law, said claims for damages such cases. It is our duty to over exam results would our policyholders to avoid stand little chance of success. "It is likely the court would take the view that there is already a regulatory system designed to address a school's SunAlliance said: "We would failings - namely, the Ofsted

International Artists Against Racism STOP THE RISE OF FASCISM IN EUROPE Repeal all anti-asylum laws

Lobby of Parliment - 2.30 to 4.30pm (Committee R.14 House of Commor

Public Meeting at 6.30pm Westminster Central Hall - Assembly Room Storeys Gate, London SWI. (Nearest Tube: St. James Park)

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## Diana's plea for young on street

Luke Harding

DIANA. Princess of Wales, launched a Christmas campaign for the charity Centrepoint yesterday to save young runaways from the perils of living rough on the streets. She told an audience at the charity's annual meet-ing in London that children as young as 11 were now homeless. Many had run away from physical and emotional violence while some had fled because of sexual abuse.

She described young people as Britain's "greatest natural resource", and praised the work of the charity for giving them "somewhere to stay and

someone to listen". Centrepoint is one of the six charities Diana has chosen to remain patron of after her decision to withdraw from public life.

She is a frequent visitor to homeless shelters, and bas often taken her sons. William and Harry, with

Yesterday Centrepoint disclosed figures which show a quarter of homeless young people had been in care. Many had experi-enced physical or sexual violence, misused drugs or alcohol, or had been in trouble with the police.

Some 11 per cent of children under the age of 16 who ran away had slept rough, while others had stayed with friends or alcohol problems.



Diana at the Centrepoint meeting

people they did not know. Mr Adebowale said his vi-The charity described the sion of a moral society was statistic as alarming. Victor Adebowale, chief

executive of Centrepoint, also pointed to a rise in the number of homeless young black people, and said he was increasingly concerned about the increase in teenagers who arrive at Centre-point hostels with drug and

one where young people were valued and not "dis-missed as a cause of moral decline". Later the princess made use of a clause in her divorce that allows her use of her ex-husband's London home, St James's Palace, and staged a reception for the Ruglish National Ballet

# Serbia's conjugal despots





Mirjana Markovic and Slobodan Milosevic: heirs to a long tradition of rulers blindly united in despotic tandem

Like other couples who have ruled oblivious to their country's fate, Slobodan Milosevic and Mirjana Markovic may be heading for a fall, writes **Julian Borger** in Belgrade

N ALL the Belgrade demonstrations of the past few days, the climactic ment came when the words Slobodan Milosevic were yelled through a microphone. The mass booing and jeering sometimes lasted more than 10 minutes. The baying for his overthrow

could be beard for miles. This is a personalised revolt against a regime which has for years resembled a court more than a modern political system. The top jobs are distributed among family friends and state resources are diverted according to per-sonal whim. All political life revolves around Mr Milosevic and his wife Mirjana Marko-- "Slobo and Mira" childhood sweethearts turned middle-aged despots.

It is a phenomenon so often repeated there ought to be a name for it. Like Louis and Marie Antoinette, Juan and Eva Peron, Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, Slobo and Mira seem to be locked in a private world, increasingly oblivious to the disastrous

state of their country.

And like earlier despotic respond to the catastrophe welling up around them, as if their mutual devotion ne-gated the need for wider approval.

They rely completely on each other and trust very few other people," said a Western diplomat who was involved in last year's Bosnian peace

In the marathon negotiating sessions at the presiden-tial lodge, Mr Milosevic con-sulted nobody, said the diplomat. "He was alone — a one man show. One night we talked for six hours and he took calls from only one per-

son — Mira.' Mr Milosevic, a former banker whose rise through the socialist ranks was eased by his wife's family contacts, has been silent throughout the turbulent past fortnight.

In fact, he has not addressed year. One of the students principal demands has been for him to say something anything, to his disgruntled

His wife evokes even more profound hatred. She spent the past two weeks, at Federal Yugoslavia's expense, in In-dia promoting her latest book, Between East and South, a collection of her weekly magazine musings about life, love and politics.
A classic Marie Antoinette

she seems unaware of the plight of her people. In her magazine column she talks about Yugoslavia as if it were enjoying a golden age. Even more galling to ordinary Serbians have been her folksy, airbrushed accounts of her family life, as if the truth were not universally known. She is the product of a brief wartime affair between two

communist partisans. While Mirjana was still a baby, her mother was executed by the party on suspicion of being a German collaborator. Her father, a high-ranking communist, did not acknowl-edge their blood ties until she at Belgrade university. Mr Milosevic was also abandoned by his father as a child, and his

mother committed suicide. Like the offspring of many dictators, their children are decadent losers. Their daughter, Marija, runs a disco in Belgrade. Each of her many boyfriends has been rapidly promoted, just before the relationship broke down.

Marko Milosevic, the 22-year-old prince in the Serbian court, is a failed racing driver who has crashed 19 cars. He owns a nightclub called Madonna, and recently told an interviewer that he was addicted to music, guns and

have to have a girl, music, a brought peace. He was no car and a gun. Guns remain longer the father of all Serbs



Mirjana Markovic calls "my wild young mustang". In October a journalist called Milovan Brkic was picked up and badly beaten by the police the day after he printed an article about Mar-

After a six-year flirtation with nationalist rhetoric, the language of the Serbian court has reverted to familiar Marxist jargon. For the purcars.
"I can't sit in a car aione tion campaign, Bosnia was without music and a gun.
Everything has to be there. I which Mr Milosevic had

united progressive forces of the left".

The phrase refers to the alliance of the Serbian Socialist Party (SPS) and the United Yugoslav Left (JUL). The lat-ter is not so much a political party as a vehicle for Ms Markovic and her friends, who are steadily gathering the reins of economic and state

Although JUL on its own rarely scores more than 2 per cent approval in opinion its leading members may have been former Marxist professors, but they have proved themselves remark-ably adept at making money.

Mihailo Markovic, a dis-gruntled SPS ideologue sacked by Mr Milosevic last year, describes JUL's creeping dominance over his party are doing.

"I think in their minds, remaking history,

"They have seized control they are remaking history, of the trade departments, so it means they have the final say in who gets import and export time. They've had their war,

Dean Murphy in Warsaw

REMARKABLE thing

Ais happening in the land of smoked sau-sage, pork cutlets and deep-

"It is incredibly exciting

Poles learn about

the joys of tofu

position. The armed forces hate JUL. The police have resisted coming under its control, but that battle is not

Bratislav Grubacic, a Belgrade political analyst, thinks Serbia's ruling couple may

polls, and won only a handful licenses. Those are the key in of local council seats in November, it now controls most Mr Milosevic's indulgence Serbian ministries. It is prin- of his wife and her old univer- whole country surreal."

### Civil rights veteran was FBI informer

World news in brief

THE US civil rights movement has been stunned by the release of FBI illes which show that a leading civil rights lawyer later appointed to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall, was an

A 1961 FBI memorandum said Marshall, after years of criticism of the FBI and its director J. Edgar Hoover, "conferred with the bureau on several occasions in connection with his forts to combat communist attempts to infiltrate the National

Association for the Advancement of Coloured People".

Initially an FBI target for his work for the NAACP and for his links to allegedly communist front organisations in the 1940s, Marshall was named to a federal judgeship in 1961, two years after his collaboration with the FBI began. At the time Marshall

was confiding in the FBI, the bureau was bugging the civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

"Marshall probably realised that it [the NAACP] could not survive without mollifying Hoover," commented Alexander Charns, author of a book on relations between the FBI and the Supreme Court.

"He seemed to rely on the FBI for a lot," said his son.
Thurgood Jr. an adviser to the vice-president, Al Gore.
Marshall, the first black jurist appointed to the Supreme
Court, died three years ago. — Martin Walker, Washington.

#### Havel's tumour removed

CZECH surgeons removed a small malignant tumour from the president, Vaclav Havel, and took out half of one lung yesterday, but said he might be back at work early in the new year.

"Doctors believe that the illness has been caught in an early stage." Mr Havel's spokesman said. "The prognosis is favourable." Mr Havel, aged 60, who smokes heavily, was admitted to be smith a week age offer failing in thouse offer pareiters illness.

hospital a week ago after failing to throw off a persistent illness. His wife Olga died in January of cancer, agod 62.

The surgeon, Pavel Pafko, said Mr Havel would be allowed to go home soon, despite the radical surgery. — Ranter, Progue.

### Reprieve for 'sacked' general

RUSSIA'S senior military commanders were in a state of confu-

RUSSIA'S senior military commanders were in a state of confusion last night after a top general, said to have been sacked in disgrace by President Boris Yeltsin, was apparently reinstated. Yesterday morning the defence ministry announced that General Vladimir Semyonov, head of the army's ground forces since 1991, had been dismissed by a presidential decree accusing him "of actions incompatible with his post, discrediting the honour and dignity of an officer".

But last night the administration denied that any such decree had been issued, saying simply that the defence minister. General Igor Rodionov, had asked Mr Yeltsin to sack his subordinate. The remest was now under consideration.

equest was now under consideration.

The harsh terms of the decree were unprecedented - giving no explanation of what the 55-year-old is supposed to have done and the row is seen as a sign of tensions within the defence ministry over military reform. — James Meek, Moscow.

#### Moldova elects president

A LEADING former communist, Petru Lucinschi, was elected president of Moldova after beating the former Soviet republic's first post-independence leader in a run-off vote on Sunday. Preliminary results yesterday gave the 56-year-old chairman of parliament an eight-point winning margin over the president, Mircea Snegur, by 54 per cent to 46 per cent. Turnout was 72 per cent compared with 67 per cent in the first round on November 17.

Mr Lucinschi, a top Kremlin apparatchik in the final days of the Soviet Union, presents himself as a social democrat. Favouring good relations with Moscow, he attacked as "savage capital ism" Mr Snegur's plans for faster market reforms, such as the complete privatisation of Moldovan land. — Reuter, Chistman.

#### Farmers cut Greece in half

FARMERS yesterday cut Greece in half, using hundreds of north-south traffic.

Demanding higher produce prices and subsidies from the used their tractors to set up blockades at more than 15 points in central Greece. The main rail link was also cut.

Stolen pages

of rare Korum

auctioned

in London

Hundreds of trucks are stuck near the central city of Larissa, headquarters of the protest. Farmers also stopped commercial traffic from reaching Athens by blocking highways to the southern port of Patras. — AP, Athens.

#### Aborigines to claim Darwin

ABORIGINES plan to lodge a land claim covering the city of Darwin in the Northern Territory — the first such demand to take in an Australian provincial capital, the aboriginal Northern Land Council said yesterday.

The Larrakia aboriginal people will tomorrow lodge a native title land claim which covers undeveloped government land including beaches, parks, mangroves, creeks and nature reserves. They will also seek government compensation for past and future development of their traditional lands on which Derwin is built. — Reuter, Sydney.

### Russians take space walk

TWO Russian cosmonauts ventured out from the critical station Mir for a space walk yesterday, installing more solar panels in an effort to put an end to occasional power failures.

US astronaut John Blaha remained inside the Mir while Valery Korzun and Alexander Kaleri left for what was expected to be more than a five-hour walk, Interfax reported. — AP, Moscow.

Hats off to disarmament



salute the national anthem before handing in their arms in Aguacatan, one of the last units to demobilise. Set up by the government in the 1980s to patrol rural areas against leftwing guerrillas, the units were widely accused of abusing human rights. Membership was compulsory for men of military age.
Government officials and rebels met in Oslo yesterday to
complete the details of three accords ending the 36 years of

#### Cows love rubber waterbeds

to a farmer in England whose herd has taken to them so well that to a farmer in England whose nerd has taken to them so well that another 100 are on order. The cows were initially wary of the mother mattresses, which can be filled with hot water for extra pampering, but having tried them once, they did not want to get

"It is good for a cow to lie comfortably. Then she will produce more milk," a salesman at the Dunlop-Enerka factory in Drachten said. Dunlop said waterbeds for horses, sheep and pigs were under consideration. — Reuter, Amsterdam.

## Moscow wins nuclear pledge

lan Black in Lisbon

ATO will publicly promise not to deploy nuclear weapons in forcommunist countries mer communist countries which join the alliance in an attempt to defuse opposition from Russia to Nato's expaneastwards, it emerged Nato officials at the Lisbon

summit of the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said yesterday, after an agreement was reached on revising a key treaty on arms control, that the pledge would be made in The alliance is to say it will not deploy tactical nuclear forces in eastern and central

Europe "under foreseeable

circumstances", going public with a commitment so far made only privately. Other commitments are likely on non-nuclear forces.

Nato is expected to start accession talks with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Chirac demands Nato transfer

from an American to a European officer is of "cap-ital importance" to France, according to a leaked letter. In the October 10 letter, a text of which was obtained

that it risks drawing new div-

at the 54-country OSCE conference. "We declare clearly our firm opposition to plans by the North Atlantic alliance to move itself and its military intory," the prime minister. Viktor Chernomyrdin, said.

'Is it not clear that the ap-pearance of new dividing lines would lead to a worsen-

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STUEF THE SOCKS

PRESIDENT Jacques trolling allied forces in the Chirac has told Bill Mediterranean, including Clinton that transferring Bosnia and the shores of Nato's southern command the Middle East and North Africa — to a European.

Diplomatic sources said it was the second personal letter Mr Chirac had sent Mr Clinton on the issue, and followed a rebuff of his by Reuters, Mr Chirac set out France's argument for Italy and Spain have giving the key post — con-backed the call. — Reuter.

iding lines in post-cold war Europe. Russia kept up the pressure

spite warnings from Moscow | ing of the whole geopolitical situation in the world?

Western diplomats said his bjections and those in a writ-en message from President Boris Yeltsin were more muted than usual. They pointed to the agreement up-dating the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty as evidence of attempts to keep Moscow happy.

The US vice-president, Al Gore, also offered reassurance, insisting Nato would remain a "defensive alliance" seeking a "strong co-operative relationship" with Russia.

US diplomats are saving publicly that the revised treaty is not intended to "compensate" Moscow for Nato expansion, but in practice the Rossians will be able to use it to restrict deployments in for-mer Warsaw pact countries. Nato members had hoped to sidestep the expansion issue in Lisbon but were put on the spot by Russian protests. The last OSCE summit, in Budapest, was dominated by a warning from Mr Yeltsin that Europe faced "a cold peace" if

"This time there has been none of the bombastic rheto-ric we had at Budapest," a key official said. Western leaders also made

it clear that Russia would not succeed in giving the OSCE a more formal role, despite its ambitious plans to publish a "blueprint for European secu-rity in the 21st century". "Organisations that have served us well since 1945 have

fried potato dumplings — being healthy is becoming shown that they can adapt to the revolutionary changes fashionable. how quickly we have recov-ered from communism," said Dr Witold Zatonski, a Warsaw cancer specialist that have taken place in Europe since 1989," John Major said. "And as long as they do and

are contributing positively we should not go in for insti-tutional tinkering for its own and author of one of several recent studies on Poland's changing health.
Dr Zatonski was one of The OSCE, which embrace the US, Canada and the Euro-

pean countries, is often dis-missed as an unwieldy talking shop because decisions are reached by consensus, allowing small members to hold the event hostage. That was graphically illustrated last night as Azerbai-

an and Armenia clashed on whether to put inverted commas round a phrase about "ethnic cleansing" in Nagorno Karabakh. Several Western leaders publicly rebuked President Alexander Lukashenko of Be-

larus for extending his pow-ers unconstitutionally, including the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, pro-testing in the name of the European Union, Mr Gore and Mr Major. Mr Lukashenko said last

nomic changes of 1989.

night his country was more democratic than Norway.

1994 that post-communist stresses had contributed to increases in heart disease and suicide, posing "a clear threat to the political via-bility of the entire reform

The World Health Organisation predicts that for the next 25 years, the get sick leave. Now they region will have the know there are real beneworld's highest death rate fits to being healthy."—Los for the next 25 years, the

among those aged 15 to 60. Angeles Times.

But the Polish turnabout has raised hopes. "We are witnessing the beginning of an improved lifestyle, and I see no signs that habits will change back," said Neil Collishaw, a scientist with

Women in feather hats.

Women in feather hars, men with ponytails, grand-mothers and businessmen filled a nutrition class sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventists in Warsaw.

"Don't get nervous when I start talking about vege-tarian cooking," the nutri-tion instructor, Beata Sles-zynska, said. "It can be

and Nutrition Institute. said the dietary changes were a sign of the times. 'We are a real democracy,' he said. "Before, people would rush to the doctor to

صكذا من الاعل

A granola recipe flashed up on the wall. Eyes wid-ened. Jaws dropped. Pens many prominent physicians who warned that Poland, along with the rest of the former Soviet bloc, had slipped into a health crisis of unprecedented took to paper like fat to fire. Tofu was next. Then MEMBERS of the Guatemalan Voluntary Defence Committee sugarless jam. By the eve-ning's end, 60 new foot solproportions.

Poles and other eastern Buropeans went on a selfdiers in Poland's nutrition destructive binge when cheap alcohol and smuggled cigarettes sudrevolution had entered basic training. "People are much more denly became available after the political and ecocivil war. - Agencies, Aguacatan and Oslo. open to new ideas than even four years ago," said Ms Sleszynska. "This isn't just about vegetarian cook-ing. It is about a whole new The United Nations Children's Fund reported in way of thinking." Dr Lucjan Szponar, direc-tor of the National Food A DUTCH rubber factory is producing waterbeds for cows, the daily De Volkskrant said yesterday.

About 130 of the luxury bovine mattres

## Zaire rebels make quick progress

Chris McGreal in Goma, eastern Zaire

EBELS in eastern Zaire are making rapid gains after key town and advancing on

The rebels said yesterday they had captured towns at the northern and southern ends of a 250-mile-long front, and had penetrated parts of the northern regional capital,

Missionaries said the rebels had captured the town of Beni, 140 miles north of Goma, on Saturday after routing Zairean army reinforce-ments flown in to defend it, and were advancing towards the larger town of Bunia.

A Swiss-based umbrella group of missionary organisa-tions, Action by Churches Together, said Zairean gov-ernment soldiers were killing and raping as they fied north-wards in parties wards in panic.
"The rebels are advancing

along the road to Bunia. There is complete chaos in Bunia," said a radio operator for the Mission Aviation

Among those flown out of Bunia by the MAF yesterday were eight Egyptian military advisers, although it was not the advisers had been in east-ern Zaire. The Egyptians clear how much further the the advisers had been in easthave trained bodyguards for Rwandan army is prepared to

75 miles

President Mobutu Sese Seko and his elite special presidential division.

Dush into the heartland of Zaire, now that it has carved out a buffer zone between

The fall of Beni came days after the capture of Butembo, about 30 miles south. Mission-ary sources said dozens of Zairean army vehicles were retreating towards Kisangani. If captured, the northern capital would be the biggest prize yet for the rebels.

Last night a rebel com-mander in Goma, John Ka-bunga, claimed his forces had already reached Kisangani which, if true, would mark an advance of about 250 miles in little more than a week.

"Our forces are now in control of parts of Kisangani. We went there by bypassing the town of Walikale, which is still giving us problems," Mr

The rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, said earlier in Bukavu that his forces had captured the gold and diamond mining centre of Kamituga on the southern front. Foreign personnel at Kamituga, where South Africa's Anglo American corporation has substantial interests, had fled westwards, he said.

Meanwhile Rwandan Tutsi troops and Zairean rebels were continuing to press an assault in the area of Wali-kale, 75 miles west of Goma. in an attempt to crush Rwan-dan Hutu militias and soldiers who fled refugee camps

tated by the will of the people In an attempt to bolster local support, the rebels have appointed civilians to administrative posts in parts of the territory they hold. But there remains considerable resent ment at what many Zaireans view as a foreign occupation. The seizure of Beni has

attack it.

cally charged task of pressing all the way to Kisangani while reducing any resistance

the rebels might encounter.

But it is by no means clear

reinforced suspicions that Uganda is also providing Beni is close to an area inside Zaire where the Ugandan army has clashed with Ugandan rebels in recent days. In other parts of eastern Zaire, rebel fighters have openly identified themselves as

The Zairean government yesterday accused Uganda of using tanks and armoured ve-hicles to capture both Beni and the border town of



A Zairean woman collects firewood yesterday from the Mugunga camp outside Goma, abandoned by fleeing refugees

## Beijing's software king makes hard cash

An academic has grown rich by waking China up to the benefits | newspapers in Taiwan make | hai and ordered to explain his more imaginative use of his | fondness for the BBC. His disof new technology. **Andrew Higgins** reports from Beijing

tural Revolution unscathed. Prof Wang now runs a modest He might also never have become a millionaire.

As punishment for listen-ing to Churchill's funeral in 1965 and other programmes from London, Professor Wang endured the humiliation of self-criticism and trauma of denunciation when radical Maoists seized control of

Beijing University.
"I listened every day," he says. "In the Cultural Revolution, listening to the BBC became a very serious prob-lem — I was listening to the

enemy."
But he also mastered the English he would later use to devour technical journals and help to make China a ploneer not merely a pirate, of high-technology. No longer an impoverished mathematiimpoverished mathematician, Prof Wang is fast becoming Beijing's Bill Gates.

A member of the team that is software for Children and the cated by the existence of thou-

F NOT for an antique radio tuned to the BBC World tive computer in 1958—a gar characters. Using mathematiservice, Wang Xuan might gentuan contraption full of cal formulae, he designed a Service, Wang Kuan might gantuan contraption full of cal formulae, he designed a veve escaped China's Culvalves called the Red Flag — programme that has allowed but growing empire called Founder Electronics.

Originally an offshoot of the Beijing University Comthe Beijing University Com-puter Institute, his company has a listing on the Hong Kong stock exchange, 36 sub-sidiaries and more than 1,000 employees. It made a profit of nearly 55 million in the first half of the year — peanuts for Silicon Valley, but enough to nearly double its share price in Hong Kong

Prof Wang works from a modest office in the Beijing bourgeois toy district of Haidian, the mecca for China's dianzi-chong or "computer insects" — the programmers, pirates and hackers of a growing computer sub-culture.

Prof Wang's main money-spinner is software for Chi-

newspapers to do away with laborious manual typesetting. Customers range from the

The Red Flag computer Prof Wang helped to design was branded a

People's Daily — the official:

voice of the Chinese Commu-nist Party — and the Libera-tion Army Daily, to fiercely anti-communist journals in Taiwan controlled by the

software. He is particularly pleased with a recent issue of Taiwan's Central Daily News. Its front page has a large colour montage featuring Tai-wan's president, Lee Tenghui, and other politicians. fighting over a basketball. Each head has been grafted

on to the body of an American basketball player. Do China's newspapers bo China's newspapers ever make make such irrever-ent use of technology? "Im-possible," says Prof Wang. Like most Chinese academ-ics, Prof Wang knows the per-ils of politics first hand. The Red Flag computer he helped

to design was branded a bour-geois boy during the Cultural Revolution and left to collect dust behind locked doors for three years.
Its chief designer, Dong Jiebao, committed suicide. A

graduate of the University of Illinois, he had given up a promising career in the United States to return to China. He was denounced as a spy.
"I was treated fairly

software instead of hardware. Banished from Beijing Uni versity, he worked at home on developing his own com-Share options in Founder

potentially very rich. But he worries about pirates stealing his software and supports US demands that China do more to protect intellectual property.
"Compared with other pro-

fessors, I am already rich enough," says Prof Wang. "I don't want to be a millionaire. But I do want my young students to be rich; very, very rich. They are very important for the future." At 59, he save he wants to

avoid the mistakes of US computer scientists who founded great corporations as young men and watched them falte in their old age.

"The founders of Wang. Digital and Cray all stayed on too long ... They then made mistakes when they hit 60. from these great men. Comput

## auctioned in London

John McCarthy in Tashkent

AGES cut from what is said to be the world's oldest Koran have been sold at Christie's, the London auctioneers, according to Muslim scholars in the Uzbekistan

capital, Tashkent.
The Mushaf Koran, compiled in 646-656, is probably the oldest complete collection of koranic verses in the world, and certainly the largest of its era, measuring 21ins by 27ins. It belonged to the Caliph Us-man, third successor to the Prophet Mohammed.

Various Muslim dynasties carried the book from Medina to Baghdad and Damascus. believe. Tamburlaine brought

Over the centuries, thieves the original 706 leaves. Now the Muftiat, Uzbekistan's office for Islamic affairs. keeps the Koran out of sight in its library.

But the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 threw the Muftiat into disarray, and it was not until 1994 that scholars discovered that a further 15 pages had been sliced from the book.

Police arrested a youth who worked at the Muftiat for the crime. Habibulloh Solekh, who has studied the Mushaf Koran for nearly 20 years. says the youth did not know the value of the pages, but re-fuses to suggest who else might have been involved in

In October 1992 several velium pages, purportedly from a North African Koran, turned up at a Christie's sale. The catalogue described them as comparable in scale to a Koran preserved in the State Library, Tashkent.

Manuscript experts in Tashkent say they have seen photographs of pages sold by Christie's which exactly match the stubs of pages in their Koran. Though they confirm that some of these pages went missing centuries ago, they claim others came

from the 1992 theft. A Christie's spokesman ad-mitted that their experts believed the pages belonged to the Mushaf Koran, but denied categorically that they were

from the recent theft. Mr Solekh says the publicity surrounding the crime en abled him to trace another 50 lost pages to museums and private collections around the

## Stolen pages Street kids find of rare Koran pride in dance

Alice Martin in Addis Ababs

NE HUNDRED street dance experience. These were the require-ments of a British choreog-rapher when he agreed to join a development project working with some of Ethiopia's 100,000 street children. The outcome? A dance-drama performed be-fore almost 250,000 people in one of the largest squares in the world, in the centre of Addis Ababa.

Admittedly, a fireworks spectacular in time to the band of the Royal Marines, flown out to celebrate the British embassy's cente-nary, was an added incen-tive for a crowd that in-cluded the ruling elite. foreign envoys, Ethiopian families and street children.

"It has been worth spend-ing energy and time just to see kids who had no idea how to stand up with pride acquire such high self-es-teem," said Alemayehu Yi-fru of the development pro-ject, Street Symphony, set up to "give Ethiopian street children a voice".

The production of Adugna (Wheel of Fate), which is set to the music of Carl Orf's Carmina Burana, was choreographed by Royston Maldoom. "Dance is a primary language which communicates across boundaries," Mr

News in brief

Setback for

Boutros-Ghali

In a blow to the candidacy of

the United Nations secretary-

general, Boutros Boutros-

Ghali, the president of the Organisation for African

Unity, Paul Biya, said African countries should look for new candidates for the job be-

cause of US opposition to the

Egyptian incumbent. Mr Biya said African states

should submit "other candi-

dates with the qualities of Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali". --- AP.

A bomb, believed to have

Train bombed

tent tool in the growth of individuals and communiiles. This is nowhere more true than in the develop ment of the young."
Mr Maldoom has taken

100 children without auditions — "children who need the production," as he puts He has also choreographed an interpretation of the lives of street children in Addis Ababa called Street Dreams. It was performed at the city hall theatre, whose plush red velvet seats had never held such a motley audience of street children's friends and relatives, including the city's blind and crippled beggars. Equally packed were the back rows of Addis Abba's central Meskal Square as night fell. Rowdy cheers

and wolf-whistles rose to a crescendo at every passing event. It was an electric at-mosphere that had security officers nervous. But alongside bemused police officers at the entrance to every aisle, street children proudly sporting white T-shirts labelled "Crew" ush-

ered crowds to their seats. "It is the first time that these two groups have worked together," said Mr Yifru, highlighting the nor-mal tension between the forces of law and the so-called durius (thieves or rascals). "There is a marked changed in atti-tude. The police officers Maldoom said. "It is a powere actually enjoying it."

cople and injuring 39 at Am-

pala, 125 miles north of New

Delhi, police said. - AP.

Deserters return

Almost 20,000 deserters from Sri Lanka's depleted army

have returned under a six-month amnesty which expired at the weekend. — Reuter.

Walking wounded

A Thai policeman whose wife

cut off his penis as he slept after an argument over a love

affair walked bleeding to a

hospital where it was re-at-tached. -- AP.

A large nocturnal animal

**Big cat spotted** 

been planted by Sikh extremists, exploded in a train Chinese border may be a leop-crammed with sleeping passengers yesterday, killing 12 glers, newspapers said.—AP.

No palace like home for cash-strapped royal The last Maharajah of Mysore's heir

refuses to hand

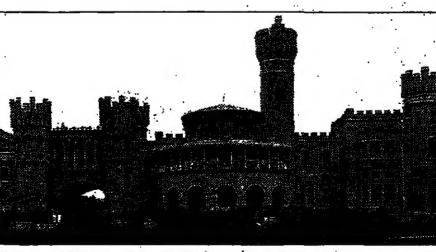
over an ancestral castie to the people of Kamataka, reports Suzanne Goldenberg

AMAN'S Home as the tile and Srikantadatta Wadi-Narasimharaja Wadiyar, the sole male heir to the fabulous wealth of the last Maharaiah of Mysore, loves his dearly.

Mr Wadiyar has far grander establishments than this outlandish imitation Windsor castle in Bangalore with its round sitting room, peeling wallpaper, well-worn pink armchairs, and bare electric bulbs, but it is as precious to him as it was to his forebears, and he is loath to move out.

Tomorrow the high court in southern Karnataka considers legislation passed by the state assembly last month to take over Mr Wadiyar's Bangalore pied à terre. His main palace, at the ancestral seat of Mysore, is safe.

For the moment, Mr Wadiyar is confident. This is not the first time the government There have been innumerable attempts since my father



The Maharajah's son wants to make this Bangalore castle a hotel PHOTOGRAPH: POPPERFOTO

been properly surveyed — adjoins the most exclusive resi-

Land nearby sells for 4,000 rupees (£86) a square foot. Mr Wadiyar says it as hard to put a value on his estate as it is on Windsor castle, to which bizarre, homage.

passed away," he says.

The Bangalore castle, nesting in 450 acres of lush parklands — or possibly 462; the lands — or possibly 462;

estate is so vast it has not and are planning a carve-up crimination against the aristocracy.
"My wife was born a prininvaluable property, one can never be sure of the compulsions and one cannot ensure

that it will remain a green space. If it is left in private hands, in due course perhaps its gothic turrets and skylines ation of shopping complexes pay an obvious, though and houses," a senior bureaucrat says. Mr Wadiyar believes the The government argues Mr Wadiyar believes the that it should be preserved as government's motives are

unat it should be preserved as a heritage site, and green space, for the fastest growing city in Asia. "It's a public property and it belongs to the people of Karnataka, not the Rajah's children," says J. H. Patel, the state's chief minister.

Privately efficiely and green government's motives are less honourable: "Many of them feel deprived because they don't have a place like this of their own."

Although his five sisters were each left only 28 acres of the estate, and have not always enjoyed cordial rela-

cess, but she lives a commoner's life. We have been victimised. We aren't allowed to pursue our right to liveli-hood," says R. Raja Chandra, who is married to Indirakshi Devi, the fourth daughter of the late Maharaiah. "Flere is a country preaching liberalisation and asking multina-

> over the property rights of individuals. Although generally off-limits to visitors, the palace has been the backdrop to countless movies, including Passage to India and Rex Harrison's Shallmar, and Findia

tionals to come in and here

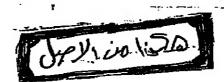
they are riding roughshod

room for "small gatherings of 100 people or so". Circumstances have forced Mr Wadiyar, a Congress party MP known as the portly prince, to give up the lavish ways of old. "We just use the room on top and this room. There is an office on the portico and one bedroom," he was a part of the portico and one bedroom, but he was a part of the portice of the portice of the portice of the portion says. But even so, his housesays. But even so, his house-keeping bills are prohibitive. Electricity alone costs 14,000 rupees a month, and the monthly wage bill — eight men for dusting, six women for sweeping and swabbing the toilets, and 20 gardeners - is 150,000 rupee:

Although existing laws restrict development, the families of the six heirs do what they can in a limited fashion. acres over to an amusement park last year with a rollercoaster, flying teacups and other rides. One of his brothers in law has set up a

However, they have far greater ambitions. Mr Wadiyar has thought about turning this palace — like two of his other ancestral homes in Mysore - into a luxury hotel with a golf course and a health spa where suites would cost up to £1,000 a night. Or possibly a time-

share resort. But the frustration of being unable to unlock the wealth tied up in the rolling green acres is beginning to tell. The acres is beginning to ten. The royals are deeply suspicious of the takeover attempt. "The government is wishing to do the very same thing I want to do," says Mr Raja Chandra. "Give me an AK-47 and I will "Give me an AK-47 and I will shoot every government bug-



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## Killing the tax base

Why is Labour so keen to aid the better-off?

LABOUR'S reported proposal to give bution unless it is the stne qua non of a two million middle-income voters up to Labour victory. But that is surely not £1.6 billion in tax cuts will make immediate sense to all those who believe that Tony Blair's party can and must do anything that will ensure it has a strong enough popular base to oust the Conservatives and win the general election. So, if the mood music of middle England is for tax cuts, Let It Be. To many traditional Labour supporters, however, it will look quite bizarre that the historic party of redistribution is shelling it out in a reverse direction to people earning between £26,000 and 230,000 a year. It may look less bizarre when the cuts are seen as part of a wide-ranging reform of income tax in which the starting rate is lowered to as little as 10 per cent and the top rate raised — as Gordon Brown is believed to favour — from 40 per cent to 50 per cent. But even so, there will still be a substantial redistribution from poorer people, who have suffered most from 17 years of Tory rule, to the comparatively well-off middle classes. Is this really what New Labour is all about?

It may, of course, be more subtle than this. Merely by allowing these sort of "proposals" to gestate in the public domain, even if the party hasn't made up its mind, Labour is immediately perceived as more friendly to those marginal middle-class voters, particularly in the south of England, that focus groups suggest could be won over to Mr Blair: and the cost would be mainly born by higher earners who are more likely to vote Conservative anyway. A policy of tax cuts for the middle classes is a very difficult one for the Conservatives to criticise even if they have doubts about how it might be funded. Criticism is much more likely to come from inside the Labour Party.

Labour victory. But that is surely not the case, as today's Guardian/ICM poll indicates — showing Labour has opened up a 19-point lead over the Conservatives on the back of a 3per cent swing in a single month. If Labour finds itself with a surplus of income arising from the windfall levy on utilities or a higher top rate of tax - then there are plenty of priorities to be satisfied before the floating voters of Beaconsfield. Some of those priorities

— like improving the health service would have strong appeal to the middle classes if it meant they could reduce their subscriptions to Bupa.

In any case, Labour should beware of doing anything that erodes the tax base. It is much easier politically to reduce taxes than to raise them. If Labour wins the general election, it will be taking office at a time when corporations and individuals are increasingly reluctant to pay direct taxes, while still wanting the social services and infrastructure that only taxes can ultimately finance.
The erosion of the tax base will get
worse as globalisation enables corporations and citizens to play government
against government in their quest to pay ever lower taxes. This process will be accelerated if electronic trading on the Internet takes off in the way that many pundits expect simply because it is much easier to duck taxes when people are ordering by e-mail from an American firm located in a tax haven somewhere else in the world. Governments all over the globe may have to start looking for new secure forms of taxation - like property and, much more controversially, food — if they are to have any hope of financing a viable welfare state. In these circumstances, all political parties — but Labour in And rightly so. It is difficult for particular — should stop pretending traditional Labour supporters to argue that cutting income tax is a game that passionately for such reverse redistri-



Don't let them in: except in unusual circumstances

in Britain are stepping forward as white knights - defenders of the poor. oppressed and abused. Are lawyers the answer to the seeming inability of our public services to introduce proper accountability? Just two weeks ago, a 20year-old man won £30,000 in an out-ofcourt settlement for bullying he suffered between the ages of 12 and 15 at his outer London school. A crucial social issue, which few schools were addressing with sufficient urgency, was suddenly placed at the top of the agenda by 26,000 headteachers. Years of waffle and warm words were replaced by the cold realism that if headteachers did not act promptly to reduce bullying within school premises, they could face serious financial hardship. Financial penalties promised to concentrate minds in a much more effective way than countless well-intentioned circulars, official guidance and professional advice. Now the lawyer who succeeded with bullying wants to follow suit with two separate cases in which pupils failed to achieve their expected GCSE grades because of the poor performance

of their local schools. The potential for action is unlimited. Compared to the US and Australia, the UK lags far behind in using civil justice to improve public services. And all wise policymakers will want to keep it this way - for both general and specific reasons. By their nature, civil suits are random, arbitrary and unsystematic. Ing suggests there might be but only in They depend on chance: the initiative of tightly defined circumstances.

SUDDENLY, the most despised people | the complainant, the energy of the particular lawyer, and the receptiveness of the local court. This is no way to reform a system dealing with seven million children in 26,000 schools. More serious still is the state of the UK's civil justice system, documented in detail by the Woolf Report in July: delays which have lengthened from two to three years; the uncertainty citizens face about costs and length of trial; the obscene manner in which costs have escalated. Ironically, Lord Woolf has tried to divert large numbers of cases away from litigation, not increase them. The main people who would benefit from the latest moves to make public services more accountable are lawvers. Successive surveys have shown they take away almost as much in fees as claimants win in damages. Indeed, in some cases they get much more — leaving the particular public services with even less in their budgets to tackle the real problems.

Services will only be improved by a much more systematic approach. Slowly but surely such mechanisms are being put in place: new forms of inspection, tighter audits, more openness and better complaints procedures. They don't have the drama of a single litigant before a law court, but they offer the millions of public service users a much better deal. The real question is whether there is a longstop role for the law when other mechanisms fail. Bully-

### From Moscow, with waves

What is the real reason for keeping Russia out of Nato?

HOPES THAT the end of the cold war | remain unconvinced anyhow, as prime would also mean the end of mystifying defence theology have not been sustained. The attempt to square the circle in Europe by expanding Nato while the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - now meeting in Lisbon — is strengthened has led to a tortuous formula about a new "overlapping model". Vice-President Al Gore insists that a Nato which enlarges into Central Europe will remain "a defensive alliance of like-minded democratic

be a democratic state too? Just why the Russians should be partners in the global economy but antagonists in continental defence remains unclear. The various proposals for a new partnership between Nato and Russia should imply Russian membership at some future stage. If there is a good reason for this being ruled out, nale: but that is all the more reason to we are not being told. The Russians argue it out in the open.

minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed yesterday. Moscow's warnings may be over-dramatic, but if Nato did not exist, it would not be invented now. OSCE's current weaknesses are obvious, but efforts could be concentrated on building a new more effective regional organisation.

What is left unsaid behind the new theology is the old conviction that Russia is an inherent threat to the rest of Europe, just because it is there. Yesterstates." But is not Russia supposed to day in Hong Kong (perhaps an appropriate place) the British chief of defence staff Sir Peter Inge said it out loud. Nato, he said, remains fundamental because Russia "is bound to create waves ..." This belief in the theory of making waves is widely held in the privacy of defence establishments. It may not be a very sophisticated ratio-



#### Letters to the Editor

## Acquitted over a rape

be art, but is it violence?, De-cember 2) is breathtaking in its ignorance. She is evidently unaware that Jacques-Louis David's painting does not depict rape. The women are in-tervening to stop war be-tween Sabines and Romans. None of them is "about to be

If she had bothered to research her subject, she would know that the "rape" (which in this context means "abduction") took place when the female Roman population was severely depleted.
Women from the nearby tribe
of Sabines were kidnapped
and married to Roman men. Later, the women, now with children by their Roman hus-

researching her book on the Renaissance, she failed to notice numerous Judiths Slay-Holofernes, Executions of John the Baptist, Martyrdoms of St Sebastian and many other similar subjects. Why she thinks Titian's Flaying of Marsayas is now considered by art historians to be "taste

ess". I can't imagine. Lisa Jardine's brand of art history is nothing more than an updated version of the Victorian tendency to judge ar and literature by the moral images it is supposedly con-veying. The fact that she can so thoroughly misunderstand the plot of a painting like David's Intervention of the Sabine Women indicates the inadequacy of this approach. Paul Barlow.

ecturer in the History of Art, University of Northumbria. Newcastle upon Tyne.

ISA Jardine's article about The Rape of the pears to make much the bers of Oxford City Council Sabine Women (It may same equation as the West have questioned the widsom minster councillors over the film. Crash, that by banning the depiction, somehow we can banish the realities of sex and violence. (Dr) Dominic Janes

Pembroke College, Cambridge CB2 1RF. EPRESENTATION of crime and suffering does not necessarily identify with the victors. The entire Christian iconography filustrates the contrary. It is a horrific corpus in certain respects. Hiding it away from comment is not the solution.

16 Argyle Street, Oxford OX4 1SS.

children by their Roman husbands, intervened to reconcile the warring tribes, as depicted by David.

As for Professor Jardine's bizarre claim that images of violence against men would be unacceptable in art galleries, I can only assume that, when researching her book on the longer of the state of art education. The scene is one of female heroism in the cause of peace.

Martin Butlin.

74c Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1PJ.

> THE greatest failing of the Page's First Law of Aesthetic Appreciation — that the artistic merit of a painting is in inverse proportion to the acreage of canvas covered. Caroline Page. 2 Moorfield Road

Woodbridge IP12 4JN.

have questioned the widsom of having pictures of mass rape on the walls of our town halls. However, Lisa Jardine seems to base a lot of her arguments in their favour on what this kind of painting "makes you feel", pain being the critical feeling in her view. This is similar to basing anti-pornography laws on the

anti-pornography laws on the supposed effect on the viewer. I don't think it is necessar-ily a bad thing to show viciny a ban thing to show vio-lence against women or men in art, whether it makes you feel pain or not. In the film Salvador, for instance, we see nums being raped and mur-dered by death squads. It is a hostificially continuing year horrifyingly convincing ver-sion of a brutal act, justified because it tells you something about what actually hap-pened. Similarly, the violence in the film Raging Bull is jus-tified because it strips away the romantic/heroic pretence

As to how you feel on see-ing these films, I would hope ing these films, I would hope pelling access to such mate-that many people were rial. They cannot search for and seize it on the say-so of a titillated, bored or anything senior police officer (not necand prejudice they bring to the film. You can't reliably things abould be shown on



#### **Getting a fix on the Lottery**

Lottery (Letters, December 2); but more is needed than that on basic demographics and spending levels. "Addiction" levels need to be assessed using bona fide addiction criteria — not through indirect measures such as gambling expenditure. We also need research that distinguishes gambling on the National Lottery from scratchcards. Probatic gambling is far more likely with scratchcards as people can engage in instant and continuous gambling.

I am also pleased to hear that research into illegal (ie adolescent) gambling will be forthcoming. Over the las year, my co-researchers and I have been studying adolescent gambling and in all three Burton Street, of our unpublished surveys to Nottingham NG1 4BU.

T is pleasing to hear from date (on well over 1,000 Peter Davis that research is being done on the National found approximately 40 to 60 per cent of adolescents buying lottery tickets and/or scratch cards. In one study of 204 boys, two in five teenagers under 16 had bought scratchcards. Using an addiction scale we found that 10 of these children (5 per cent) were "addicted" with 3 per cent spending more than £15 on them every week.

This suggests there is a high level of scratchcard use among adolescents (despite legislation) and that there is a small number of adolescents who may have an "addiction" to scratchcards. The area (Dr) Mark Griffiths. Dept of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University.

#### The risks and rewards of Emu

starting to doubt that we should in fact join (No go yet for euro, November 30). The risks he raises to justify this are real, but his fears are

It is certainly true that it

vonid be mad if we ended up slashing public spending un-necessarily, in order to be in at the beginning of Emu. But, even on a strict interpretation of the Maastricht criteria, that is unlikely - we are close to being there. In any case, even without Emu we should be concerned about having a deficit well over 3 per cent of GDP this far into the economic recovery. If we want the room to run countercyclical Keynesian policies and have enough resources 30-32 Southampton 5 for health and education London WC2E 7RA.

MARTIN Kettle, though | without the debt burden in-basically pro-Emu, is | creasing to unsustainable creasing to unsustainable levels, then we should be controlling the deficit now.

The worry about the inclusion of Italy in Emu, and the fudging of the criteria to let it in, starts to get perverse. If anything, the inclusion of Italy and a bit of fudging mean that the euro may be slightly less strong. Those arguing for Emu

must readily concede that it is not a riskless option. But as we know, current economicpolicy frameworks have not got us far in the last 30 years. And the risks of staying out of Emu are substantial and

Dan Corry. Senior Economist, Institute for Public Policy Research. 30-32 Southampton Street,

the basis of how people feel. Mike Spring. 12 Primrose Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 1PD.

Last wishes

due course, died peacefully.

If seriously ill people are
being drip-fed, this solution

may not be open to them but, for many people, it is a readily available option

which preserves their autonomy yet cannot be frustrated

If you decide that life is worth living after all, you can sim-

Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1EW.

DR Gill Ford of Marie Curie Cancer Care (Letters, No-vember 29) adopts the usual

hospice stance of opposition to euthanasia even if volun-

tary. However, hospice pallia-tive care involves a willing-

ness to prescribe opioids such as diamorphine in dramati-

cally higher quantities than

"mainstream" medicine to

avoid suffering in the final stages of terminal illness. I am very glad they do this.

But they remain convinced

such doses are lethal and

could lead to prosecution for

It must be one of the great

medical paradoxes that those

whose public stance opposes

euthanasia are most ready to

practise it and those who sur-

vey evidence suggests are more and more likely to sup-

port it, dare not do anything

which suggests they have ac-tually carried it out.

34 Burman Road, Shirley, Solihull B90 2BG.

Don Aston.

murder or manslaughter.

ply start eating again. Lucy Hall.

7c South Park

examine whether a reas EVERY time there is a de-bate about euthanasia (Hope to die, November 30) I am surprised that no one mentions the solution adopted by an American friend of mine. When she was 94, she told her family that she was tired of living and was going to stop eating. This she did — she drank a little water but ate nothing and, in

Finally, although Mr Straw

#### A shadow minister proceeding in a dangerous direction

saying that Clause 89 of the Police Bill puts on a statutory basis what is currently done under Home Office guidance. But sadly, he misses the point of principle and seems also to have misunderstood the realities of practice.

Burglary and bugging by the police — for that is what is involved — is so dangerous that only a thorough and sceptical examination of the supposed necessity before it occurs in any individual case is acceptable in a free and democratic state. That is why nearly all have some sort of

dure undertaken by a judge.

The UK does the same where the police think it necessary to gain access to per-sonal documents or information in the investigation of drug trafficking. Under the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, they must persuade a circuit judge to issue a warrant comsarily the chief constable because the Bill permits authorisation to be delegated)

whose primary concern is the success of the investigation. Moreover, it is ludicrous to regard the proposed commis-sioner as effectively *supervis-*ing (Mr Straw's italics) the exercise of these powers. The judge appointed to this post will work part-time, look only at a sample of the authorisa-tions, and have no support staff. He will be potentially concerned with the work of chief officers of over 50 police

forces throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Most importantly, the "supervision" only occurs after, usually long after, the fact. Nor will it extend to judg-ments about the propriety or effect on human rights of the authorisation. It will merely police officer could have

Any criticism and subsequent change of practice will be of no benefit to the victim of unnecessary or excessive invasion of privacy, who al-most inevitably remains un-aware of what has happened. Nor will he or she receive compensation, such as might well be given to someone whose house had been invaded by an unlawful police

seems to care no more about this than does Michael Howthis than does Michael How- 40 Belmout Road, ard, it is very doubtful Southampton SO17 2GE.

JACK Straw's reply to Hugo | whether the absence of prior Young (Letters, November | judicial authorisation will 30) is technically correct in satisfy the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights. I had thought his party was intending to in-troduce a Bill of Rights into

> between the two policies. (Prof) Laurence Lustgarten. Faculty of Law, University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ.

our law. There is a connection

PARAGRAPH 10 of the Report of the Security Service Commissioner (Cm 3253) is relevant to the debate on when police can interfere with property. The Commissioner presents various op-tions to resolve the problem:

1. A system of judicial war-rants similar to those under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. He notes: "This could present difficulties in the case of urgent

applications".
2 Applications made to the Secretary of State as under the Interceptions of Communica-

3. Statutory police chiefs to authorise such operations accompanied with some judicial oversight The Commissioner notes: The disadvantage is that the application is made to the police themselves and not some independent person. Since the Security Service Commissioner does not criticise any of the options above on the grounds raised by Mr

New Labour has still to justify its position. (Dr) C N M Pounder. 16 Victoria Road, Chingford, London E4 6BZ.

Straw, one concludes that

BY exploiting an ambiguity Din the phrase "exercising powers", Jack Straw implies that the new Bill is merely giving statutory form to something the police have been doing lawfully for years. In fact, the entering of propregarded the case as coming erty to plant bugging devices under the (excessively loose) will normally have involved the police in trespass. The fact that the courts have admitted evidence obtained in this way does not alter the illegality of its gathering, nor can Home Office guidelines

of Re

make it lawful. The Bill will significantly extend the powers of the police and ought, for that reason alone, to have proper scrutiny in Parliament. It is unlikely to get this given the wholehearted support of the Opposition.

Howard Davis

#### **A Country Diary**

bunches of grapes are still hanging limply from the bare stalks of our vines. The reason is that the main picking, ear-lier in November, yielded a crop so much more plantiful than last-year's that our limited wine-making capacity is already more than used up. New vines and cuttings that produced 251b of grapes last year have produced more than 70% this year. Two Chenin Blanc vines that struggled to bear just 11b have, between them, produced 17. More significant than the sheer bulk of the crop is the fact that most of the julce, which tastes promising, started to ferment organically without the addition of either yeast or sugar. Hugh Johnson explains that wine did not have to wait to be invented; a grape with enough sugar in its juice, and enough reast cells on its skin, has only to have the skin broken to make wine. But many northerly wine-makers, whose vines often see too little sunshine to produce enough of

SOMERSET: A few bedraggled | their own sugar, have to resort to chaptalisation, the artificial addition of sugar, which was first authorised in France by a minister of agriculture called Chaptal. So it is a matter of local pride that this year, although our sum-mer has not been notably sunny, and despite the fact that there was little spraying against the traditional enemies, borrytis and mildew, the juice is bubbling without the ald of artificial stimulants. Just lately there have been some severe frosts. A look at our remaining grapes in the early morning reminded me of what I had read about eiswein, a wine said to have an unparalleled intensity. The grapes must be picked early in the morning, sometimes as late in the season as January, and crushed whilst their juice is still frozen. Results can be spectacular. Success would add formidably to the establishment of Somerset as one of the outstanding regions gastronomiques of Europe. JOHN VALLINS

### Diary Matthew Norman

N dramatic transfer news from the world of fitness and beauty, my old friend Mandy Mandelson appears to have swapped health clubs. Mandy, you will recall, used to be an early-morning regular at the YMCA, where he perfected the motionless, one-legged posture now known to close students of aerobics as "the Hartlepool Stork". On Saturday, however, he was seen making a regal tour of Lampton Place, an exclusive club not far from his newly purchased £450,000 house in Notting Hill. Other celebrity members include Jeremy Paxman, Mariella Frostrup and Emily Lloyd, while Ian Maxwell recently managed to find £660 for a year's mem-bership (plus the £180 join-ing fee). Despite his undeniable presence on Saturday, Oofy Wegg-Prosser rapidly rebuts the story anyway. He further dismisses the further dismisses the rumour that Mandy has just recorded a video called Fit-ness For The Over-40s, with Dame Thora Hird. "Is that

OFY'S insolence about source-check-ing leads neatly to the vital matter of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's bladder.
Following the report of how
he had the Gents at the Lyceum emptied to enable solo eing, one-time Thatcher adviser Sir Tim Bell contacted us to demand an apology. Claiming to have spent every moment of the evening with the composer, Sir Tim wrote: "I can confirm that Sir Andrew did not visit the gentlemen's lavatory at any stage." Our sources, however, insist he did, and that the story is true. We await his response. This is a matter of the utmost gravity. The truth must be

what your sources say?"

more carefully."

asks Oofy. "Then I suggest that you check with them

VITH the press pre-view of Fever Pitch tomorrow night in the West End, there are doubts as to whether the book's author will be there. Caps aloft to the organisers for scheduling the screening of a film about Nick Hornby's obsession with watching Arsenal play at Highbury on a night Arsenal are playing at High-bury against Southampton.

Na surprise sartorial nove\_Jack Straw has taken to wearing a fedora. An observer who saw him in Whitehall last week described the titler as wider and more dramatic than anything worn by Douglas Hogg". We are for politicians assuming fauxeccentric props in the attempt to feign a personality, of course, but in this case there must be doubts. The precedents for men known as "Jack the Hat" are not good, and even today there are those in the East End who will consider Mr Straw's behaviour a diabolical liberty. For unlike his enemies, the Kray twins, Jack McVitie (no diamond geezer) was often well out of order, once arriving at one of Ronnie and Reggie's clubs wearing nothing but Bermuda shorts, boots, a ma-chete and, of course, his hat. is this a good role model for a would-be Home Secretary?

VEN while he keeps
his head down in prep earstion for the battle ahead, the Defence Secre-tary continues to impress ils European counterparts. Last month's Diary item about Mr Portillo's trip to Bosnia has reached German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe, who was greatly amused to read of Mr Portillo's attempts to avoid being photographed near anything German; among other memorable moments, he refused to enter a field-hospital commander's vehicle because it was a Mercedes. Purthermore, Herr Ruhe and his staff now refer to our Secretary of State solely by the name "Polly".

EINFORCING the seasonal message that charity begins at home, the newsletter for members of Portsmouth South Conservative Association has arrived, "Making a will?", asks the headline above a front-page box.

"Please don't forget the Con-servative Association — not as obvious as many charities, but surely no less deserving and worthwhile?"



## Jack Straw is wrong, wrong, wrong

### Commentary

### Hugo Young

OMETIMES it is necessary to say it again, slowly. When the audience is Jack Straw, Labour's shadow Home Secretary, a matter of principle clearly needs to be described in words of one syllable or risk being mistalens for method. being mistaken for another matter of purely electoral convenience. On Thursday, I overestimated Mr Straw's capacity to recognise a fundamental constitutional issue when it intruded into his busy life. On Saturday, he under-estimated the intelligence of Guardian readers with a reply that plumbed the depths of intellec-

Let me start again. Under the Police Bill, now going are being given power to authorise themselves to enter priorise themseaves in chief in the vate premises, prepare surveillance, plant bugs, inspect files and do just about anything else in pursuit of crimimises may belong to lawyers, journalists, priests or anyone else, as well as the prospective | new law, to Mr Straw's relief,

the worst of this. Cross-bench peers, especially lawyers, are much concerned, and so are half-enlightened Tories. They could be roused to carb a great leap backwards, which will de-stroy the central liberty protected by the common law for more than 200 years: the citimore than 200, years: the cri-zen's freedom from arbitrary intrusion on his property. But Labour refused to vote. Yet again it saw the possibility of being dubbed soft on crime, and ren terrified from the field. Mr Straw's defence of this suggests be will have no

need of the unprincipled casulsts and brazen logic-choppers whom he is preparing to inherit when he takes over Michael Howard's office. He can do it all himself. First, he finds a way of saying the new law is actually benign. It will render legal what is now illegal. The police, it turns out, have been doing this kind of thing for years. Since 1984, under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act,

they have done it under Home

Office guidance but still with

out statutory authority. The

villains under scrutiny. The will make that good. But he is very easily satisfied. He contegorisable as "serious" under the statute, which does not definiting and bugging unlawthe statute, which does not define the word. Strikers and bypass protestors will be in the
frame as readily as Triads or
the IRA. If you're a friend of
one of them, it could be you.

It is within Lebour's power
to contest and perhaps defeat
the worst of this Cross-hench
the worst of this Cross-hench
the worst of this Cross-hench

ment's response?
But that is only the beginning of the quest for self-validating precedents. Next comes the Security Service Act, which recently permitted MI5 to do all these things, and therefore created an anomaly that now demands correction. Remember: we aren't talking terrorism, or necessarily major international crime, here. The statutory powers for MIS were created for their work in aid of the ordinary police. The Police Bill is being justified, indeed welcomed, by Mr Straw, parroting Mr How ard's minions, on the grounds that it follows the MI5 model smoothing out the inconsisten-cies. That's a poor line any-way — and besides, it creates another anomaly. Whereas Mis needs the Home Secre-

tary's authorisation, the police will authorise themselves. They are about to leap ahead of the security service in their numolested license to intrude. That's the third, most spa-cious zone of Jack Straw's constitutional brain-death. Even supposing these powers may

lacks, as policemen often do, any appreciation of a priority higher than what the law says? Last week a Lords amendment proposed that a judge and not a policeman should be the authorising gent Labour opposed it. Now we know why.

To the Government's own reason, Mr Straw adds a per-verted variant of his own. The Government's reason, seriously advanced by the min-ions, is that for a judge to get involved in issuing a prior warrant at such a stage of a criminal investigation would partiality being called into question. Judges are some-how not suitable, or even available, for such sensitive

A great leap backwards will destroy the central liberty protected by the common law for 200 years

along with this. One might have thought that, before ut-tering such incredible nonsense, the authorities of either party would have consulted the judiciary itself. But I know that the Lord Chief Justice was never asked. Nor did Mr Straw, perhaps advisedly have the nerve to ask the judi-ciary, high or low, what it thought of the very special wisdom he contributed to Saturday's Guardian: that a mere circuit judge. "the lowest level sometimes be necessary, what of the full-time judiciary", eyes.

what the Government is defering, instead, is someone else — "a senior judge", Mr Straw gasps in breathless fealty — who will keep an eye on how the new police power actually operates. This will devivelence has a very important. doubtless be a very important person, but his remit will have certain shortcomings. He will come into play after the event, perhaps long after. He can't stop anything happening. He will not be a court, before which a complainant can make a case and be awarded damages for the violation of his rights. Indeed, such violations will be hard to prove, since the statute will make anything automatically lawful that a reasonable (ie not in-same) chief constable, acting reasonably, has authorised.

The test guarantees the lawful-ness, and therefore the unim-peachable propriety, of every case likely to come before this distinguished elder in whom Mr Straw, not to mention Mr Howard, is proud to place his

Even if one takes these pow-

ers to be, in extreme car necessary, the structure put in place around them is a sham, and one that no other ad-vanced democratic country permits. A study by Justice of seven compatible jurisdictions shows no comparable belief shows no comparable belief that crime needs to be fought without warrants, or that judges are ineligible for setting a prior limit to the use of police powers. Here, by contrast, legislators persuade themselves that the British state is incapable of erring. Peers doze, Labour snivels, liberties drain away. The liberties drain away. The report stage is in January. It is not too late for Tony Blair to instruct Mr Straw in the meaning of justice, nor for defenders of British liberty, right and left, to open their

up. When the old methods of

depriving women of political

rights and economic power began to fail, they had to find

another way; and what better

way than to play on women's

fears of being rejected, criti-cised and unloved? If accep-

tance and approval are set at standards which most women

will absorb so much of the

women's energy they'll have

little left over to use in ways

which might run counter to

what the men saw as their own best interests. I am not suggesting that

group of men sat down

together and worked out this

dastardly scheme for all the

other chaps to put into prac-tice. Those kinds of ideas, which Richard Dawkins calls

ed of men to feel more pow-

erful than women, stay the same while the means by

which certain needs might be

met change with other factors in society. One factor of tre-

mendous importance is whether people are aware of the source and purpose of

Before the advent of the

women's movement in the 70s, many women were not

these chains might have led

chained to the kitchen sink but were unaware of their chains. Awareness of

## safeguards will exist against them being used without good reason? What defence of even the smallest kind will the citizen have against their arbitrary deployment by a well-meaning chief constable who lacky as militered of the senior judge. Mr Straw gages in breathless feour battlefield



Rachel Cusk

MAGINE being able to sue MAGINE being able to sue your school for being bad. Imagine, as has famously been the case in America, being able to divorce your paratts. There is something thrilling to the notions which, even as our rational nature rises to its fast in protest perrises to its feet in protest, perrises to its feet in protest, per-ceptibly rings with the admit-tedly childish sound of sup-pressed laughter. It's hard not to think, what a laugh. It's hard not to wonder, as people used to about women, what it would be like if children were in charge. There's a new class on the block: one of which we all have been a member.

all have been a member. sented to a select committee on children's health have the curious effect of both tempering one's enthusiasm for the idea of children's rights while st the same time appearing to present an incontrovertible case for them. One in four children, it seems, is suffering from a form of superannua tion: eating disorders, suicidal tendencies, a vague but troubling-sounding "psychosis". These are adult problems in These are adult problems in small bodies, a kind of emotional freak-show which both fascinates and repets. What on earth' have we done to bring about this horror? Is this some sort of laboratory experiment. video nasties, divorce, moral and social breakdown, and uncertain bedtimes, were put in a test tube to see what happened?
Without proceeding to why,
it is clear that children are suffering from stress. It could

be the result of too much con-trol over what happens to them, or of too little. It could be the mess at home, or it could be the mess outside it. If could be me, but it seems to me much more likely that it's you. Why don't we ask them? standards which most women find hard to reach, then tree children the rights — It is inter

currently to need them — and childhood — the desire to consequently, though more make other people do what you elusively, the definition of a social class, what precisely are we doing? We can say that we are protecting them from themselves. We can say, libersome time back in the 20s a ally, that we are protecting them from us. We don't say what is more likely to be the case: that in fact we are protecting them from other people.

Those who support the idea of children's rights, of their participation in decisions that af-"memes", change and spread ticipation in decisions that afaccording to their effectiveness in meeting the needs and aims of different groups of the political and social specpeople. Certain needs, like the trum from those who want to lie awake at night worrying

all of the family. In fact, it might be the case that both regard children as the paper, the medium, for some dishonourable social exchange. I don't like you. I don't like the way you do things. You are what's wrong with nie. Childhood, like most Victorian inventions, became defunct after the second world war. The evacuation, both as a

metaphor for, and a memory of, its violation, still com-mands a powerful place in our culture. Whether it marked the beginning of a loss of respect for authority, for adults, is impossible to say: but it certainly provided people of that generation with a rupture in the seamless privacy of childhood, an exchange of stories, a chanel for some collective stream gathered other things to itself and now courses relentlessly and noisily through the heart

Childhood is the site for a collision of the great themes of our modern narrative: for us, it is the place where too much fondness for the past meets too great a fear of the future, in-deed, by attempting to affix childhood, by prising it open before it has even begun to mature, we are upgrading this fear of the future into a statement of no confidence either in it or in ourselves. Childhood is the cauldren of the future. which we are vainly trying to use as a mirror. What does my child's behaviour say about me? Better still, what does yours say about you?

HEN we give children rights, and the power, both sentimental and actual, to over-rule us, we are not merely surrendering our own authority: we are admitting a defeat that should be inadmissable. The family is usefully analogous to many things, politics among them: and it would perhaps not be too unfair to say that the manner in which debates are conducted across the media and government is every bit as acrimonious as that of a div-orcing couple. How much easier it is to throw things than to retain our respect for each other, and how easy to turn children, as the last territory

It is interesting that one of among many others, be com-ing to characterise the adult ere of politics; and that in its wake a litigious, seriousminded, stressed-out genera-tion of children should be evolving Childhood can't exist unless in opposition to adulthood. Amitai Etzioni's remark that, without their parents to teach them any better, chilballast perennial authority and labout us seems altogether legislate in the private free-formore likely.

### Modern man wants modern woman to be thin. Men control the fashion business. So how does a woman choose to respond? **Dorothy Rowe** argues that if the choice is bulimia, it is not an illness

## A gross distortion

throw up are said by psychi-atrists to be suffering from an illness called bulinia. According to a joint study just reported from psychiatrists at the Institute of Psychiatry in London and at Boston University, the number of women suffering from this Illness has nearly trebled between 1988 and 1993. The question is being asked: has this Illness now reached epidemic proportions?

The language of illness pre-cludes choics. These poor women have caught this dread disease through no fault of their own. The language of illness also precludes change; for unless the psychiatrists can come up with some effective medical treatment (pills, ECT or, perhaps one day, genetic re-structur-ing), these women are condemned to suffer for the rest of their lives.

Psychiatrists will say that in treating these women they use therapy and counselling. However, therapy and counselling are psychological, not medical, techniques. Whatever style of therapy or coun-selling is used, it is based on the idea that what we do results from our interpretation of our situation and the choices we have made. We are always free to change our in-terpretations and our choices.

Do women choose to behave in ways which might be called bulimic? Some women make a very clear, conscious choice that they are going to est and then, in some private place, throw up all they have eaten. Other women starve eaten. Other women starve themselves, then, feeling im-pelled to eat, consume vast amounts of food. Having done so, they feel guilty and dis-gusted with themselves, and so choose to regurgitate all the food they have eaten. This second group of women might say that they don't choose to eat as they do, but that they feel impelled to do so. Such compulsion is not a symptom of an illness, but a defence against the way we all feel whenever we lose confidence in ourselves and feel our very sense of existence crumbling and disappearing in a situa-



The reason that the first

group of women choose to throw up and the second group of women feel disgusted with themselves when they eat is that they all believe that to be accepted and admired they must be thin. How could they not believe this, when everything in their society proclaims that beauty and acceptability reside only in a thin body?

ing their interests, not ours.
Is it not men who decide what the public standard of centuries male artists chose the models and now, while We are all in the business of interpreting and making in the fashion industry, choices. But whereas some of it's the men who control the

idiosyncratic, others we have idiosyncratic, others we have taken from other people without pausing to consider why these people are presenting such ideas to us. Yet all too often other people press their ideas on us and hide from us ideas on us and hide from us the fact that they are pursuits.

Why was has become the standard of beauty? For all the centuries up to the first world war, men admired women who had developed as most women do, with rounded curves which come more generous as time come more generous as time passes. From the first world war onwards, a close correlabeauty should be? Down the tion can be seen between the increase in women's independence and freedom and the decrease in acceptable size. Men have always felt it nec-

chains can come creeping back in other guises. The cult of extreme thinness is one such chain. How eagerly so many women have allowed themselves to be imprisoned yet again! Women can choose to ac cept this chain and go on to punish themselves for eating. Or they can eat what they like

and enjoy whatever body shape results. Or they can chose the slimness that come With plenty of exercise. Whichever they choose, none of these choices is an illness. Dr Dorothy Rowe is a

psychologist and writer. Her books include Dorothy Rowe's essary to keep women locked | Guide to Life (HarperCollins)

comes from Mrs Fleming of

Hereford. She urges local

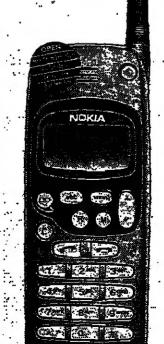
authorities to survey the needs of old people living in residential homes with a

view to rescuing them from

"perpetual idleness and a

life entirely devoid of joy".

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## Riding off into the sunset

### ANOTHER MANIFESTO

HERE is a charming story about an elderly lady living in Slough who would, come election who would, come election time, assure every politician of her vote, writes Sarah Ryle. She took particular care with the Conservative candidate whose Rolls Royce would duly arrive on polling day to convey her to the ballot box. Then she would vote Labour, as she always had.

increasingly difficult: when the welfare state was established there were fewer old people dependent on social security. Put bluntly, retirement was followed swiftly by death, limiting the cost to state budgets.

always had.
Politicians have traditionally wanted to keep pensionally wante

ers happy — notwithstand-ing the Budget, which did httle for them. This will be writes, there is a widespread distrust of private sector providers as a result of previous mis-selling of personal pensions and fear based on job insecurity. Mr Cook proposes stain-

tory regulation of the industry. Workers and employers should be obliged to take out pensions, but the state should strictly supervise the providers to reassure the

D Anthony, of London, proposes a drastic solution to the sheer numbers of people burdening the state. He would like to see pensions index-linked and inflation-proceed but only for people burdening the state. He would like to see pensions index-linked and inflation-proofed — but only for prove the lot of pensioners

people who limited their families to two children. He believes that this would eventually reduce the population to 25-30 million, creating a utopian green and pleasant land. He does not address the transitional burden on a dwindling crop of young earners supporting an increasing population of

Perhaps the most radical approach of all comes from Derek South of Dymchurch, pensioners.

Philip Brachi, of Montgomery in Wales, would, for a week, provide em-ployer and state-funded life swaps carried out on the same obligatory basis as jury service. Those in work would share their job and ecommodation with those who were out of work, on benefit or pensioners. He ar-gues that this would address

Kent. He would disenfranchise anybody over the age of 55, at least for a referendum on Europe and its currency, on the grounds that the elderly have an "enthuwhen the referendum out-come would affect younger generations. The elderly might argue that with experience comes wisdom.

We welcome your contributions to Another Manifesto, our openaccess series for injecting ideas

## **Toon that** won the war

Ven der Fuehrer says, 'Ve iss der Master Race!' Ve Heil! Heil! Right in der Fuehrer's face!

O QUOTE from Oliver Wallace's once-topical lyric correctly, there should be the word razz! after every Hell. This is a contraction for raspberry, that fruity combination of pursed lips, protruding tongue and outblown breath. Film censors in less vulgar times did not permit such ruderies, but they made an exception and let a razz through in 1942 when Walt Disney previewed the Donald Duck cartoon, Der Fuehrer's

Face.
The film was originally entitled Donald Duck in Nasty Land, but the song was so successful that the studio changed the title to match the ditty before release. Its cari-caturing of Nazi Germany won it the best cartoon film Oscar, George Nicholas, who has died aged 85, was one of the animation team on that famous film — now considered infamous by the present Disney Organisation, which refuses it a video release and nice new Disney Channel. Nicholas in time rose above the crowded animators' credits and made it as a cartoon

He was born in Vermilion, Ohio, moving to Los Angeles with his family, aged 10. He was hired by Walt Disney in 1932 and learned the art of



**Nicholas** worked on a trio of the great Disney feature films, including Lady and the Tramp

later to the Walter Lantz Studio at Universal Pictures. Lantz had been in the anima-tion business before Disney. and was embarking on his first colour cartoons. Designed to rival Disney's colour Silly Symphonies, these Lantz titles included Jolly Little Elves and Candy Land. Nicholas worked alongside animation industry giants like Tex Avery, Stephen Bosustow — later to form the revolutionary UPA

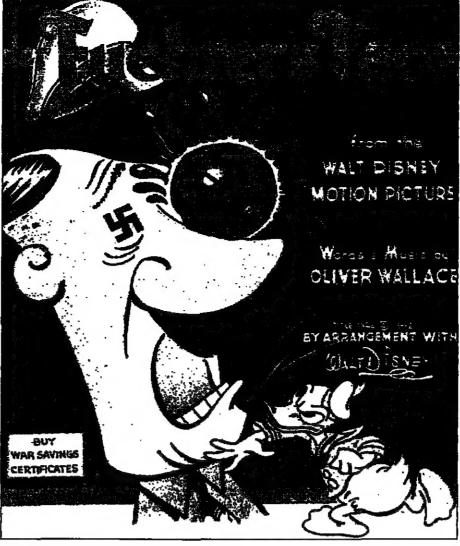
ding, one of the few regularly-credited women animators. Later, Nicholas was animator on several cartoons starring Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, including Silly Seals and, in 1938, Rabbit Hunt.

Back with Disney in the early 1940s Nicholas worked

on the studio's propaganda cartoons, such as The Army Mascot (1942) which starred Pluto the Pup, lowl to dewlap with an Irlsh buildog named Winston, and a three-minute short Out of the Frying Pan into the Firing Line. In this, Pluto helps Minnie Mouse save her scraps of kitchen fat for the war effort, and the butcher rewards him with a string of sausages. Other pat-riotic Pluto films included First Aiders (1944), and Dog Watch (1945), but it was Der Fuehrer's Face which won the

cartoon war.
Postwar Pluto films for Nicholas began with The Legend of Covote Rock (1945), which confronted the hound, now on sheep-dog duty, with Bent-tail the coyote, a crea-ture so immediately crowd-pleasing that he returned in several cartoons with his somewhat stupid son, a pocket-sized pup who pre-ferred to go into a trance than steal sheep.

Later in the decade, Nicholas moved into feature-length films. His first credit as a character animator was on Cinderella (1950). In 1955 came Disney's first Cinemascope feature The Lady and the Tramp and four years later Sleeping Beauty.



Singalong . . . Der Fuehrer and the Duck

joined the top television car-toon makers, Hanna-Barbera. He was animation director on the 1966 cinema feature A Man Called Flintstone. In 1969, he joined the great Chuck Jones, who had set up as an independent feature animation producer at MGM and he was listed as supervi-

In the 1960s, Nicholas | Phantom Tollbooth, which | from Kipling's Jungle Book in was based on Norton Juster's popular, slightly highbrow children's book. In 1971 he worked with the Canadian/ British animator Richard Williams on his award-win-ning extraordinarily differ-ent version of Dickens's A Christmas Carol. With Chuck Jones, he co-directed two tele-

the mid-1970s, Rikki Tikki Tari and The White Seal. In 1986 the Motion Picture Cartoonists Guild presented him with a special award.

**Denis Gifford** 

George Nicholas, cartoon animator, born 1911; died Novem-ber 23, 1996

Idries Shah . . . caustic, gentle, funny, always a challenge

## To teach the way of the Sufi

writing was meant to present the thought and teaching of Sufism — the mystical and pantheistic Muslim philosophy — to a late 20th century audlence, but he also wrote in the Sufi tradition of personnel of the Sufi tradition of the S and produced a best-selling was obligatory in the House novel, Kara Kush, on the war of Hashim from which he was Afghanistan, his ancestral homeland. Well into his sixties and at great risk, Shah went into Afghanistan twice to collect material for the book (he called it a Moses basket - in which something of the nation could be saved for the future). Besides his writing. Shah

was also for many years di-rector of studies for the Institute for Cultural Re member of the British Association for the Advancement of

on travel and anthropology, sonal development, which the heads of all the major Sufi orders met in Turkey and (according to stories circulating in both east and west) chose the young Idries for a mission to the west. It was believed that western science had now made psychological discoveries which matched Sufi understanding, and so the west was in a position for the first time - to incor-

> porate Sufi knowledge into western science. After completing his "jour-

DRIES Shah, who has died science, a founder member of aged 72, wrote some 35 the Club of Rome, and a combooks and countless monographs. Much of his ldries Shah was born in England and attracted a small many of the other languages. band of students. In Destination Mecca, one of his early books, he predicted the Is-lamic fundamentalist upsurge of the last two decades; but it was not until he wrote The Sugis, which implied that bio-logical and cultural evolution were not fortuitous but proviicant impact. The exposition involved analysis of important texts and uncovered meanings which had not been recognised by orientalists This created an almost hysterical academic reaction. One characteristic of The Sufis, as with the work on Sufism which followed, was its rejection of the beads-andbangles western yearning for

the east mysticism of the

1960s and 1970s. The audience

which Shah's work attracted

he spoke, was that of a native speaker. He was immensely articulate and caustic, gentle and funny. His range of information on so many subjects was prodigious and he was an excellent raconteur who used humour to challenge his listeners' assumptions. His circle of friends was vast and often colourful; his generosity legendary — but as Sufis require, he never spoke of it. He was a great exemplar of He is survived by his wife, Kashfi, a son and two

David Wade and Edward

Sayed Idries Shah, thinker, born

June 16, 1924; died Nove

Michael O'Hehir

## The voice of Ireland at play

thousands of far-flung Irishognised in Britain as a television racing commentator, but it was his radio commen-taries on Gaelic football and hurling that first made his name among his fellow-countrymen, wherever they were. In England, be shared 35 Grand National commen-taries with Peter O'Sullevan; but it was O'Hehir who had to describe the shambles of the 1967 National when many of the field came down in a mighty pile-up. He recalled

weighing out for the race, so he checked with the jockey wearing them, whose horse, he usefully discovered, was called Foinavon. As the horses came down like char-gers at the battle of Balaclava, O'Hehir coolly described their fate -and, luck of the Irish, it was Foinavon which somehow sidestepped the melée and galloped on to a 100-1

O'Sullevan recalls another example of O'Hehir's supreme unflappability. They were sharing a 1974 TV commentary from the Curragh in

OR almost 50 years later that he had not been lireland and there was an IRA 1938. That year he commen-michael O'Hehir, who able to identify one set of bomb scare. The stands had to tated on the All-Ireland foot-has died aged 76, was colours as the jockeys were be evacuated, but the two O's ball final and for the next 50 were abandoned in their perch up on the roof of the stand. O'Sullevan had per-suaded the engineers to rig up an unofficial TV set so that he could see how his horse At-tivo fared in the Northumber-land Plate at Newcastle. Attivo won, but a stewards' inquiry was called. "Please God the stands don't blow up before you know whether your horse keeps the race," said O'Hehir, unworried. He was born Michael Hehir

and as an 18-year-old school-

boy applied for a commentat-ing job with Radio Eireann in

Bangladeshi greens, or

bomb scare. The stands had to tated on the All-Ireland footyears his broadcasts on the event were essential listening and formed a link with home for Irish emigrants across the world. He actually changed his name to O'Hehir to give it

a more Irish ring.
At the beginning of the 1960s, he became head of sport for RTE, Ireland's new TV network. In 1963, he was chosen to commentate on President Kennedy's state visit, and by chance he was on a racing trip to America when Kennedy was assassi-nated and gave a masterful, marathon broadcast of the



Michael O'Hehir . . unflappable in disaster

National". His Irish racing roles were

Kennedy funeral, rubbing shoulders with Richard Dimbleby, who called him "the man from the Grand

Michael James O'Hehir, com-mentator, journalist, born June

the Irish Form Book in 1950. He also officiated at several tracks and for a time managed Leopardstown racecourse. He loved a tilt at the bookmakers.

His commentating career was cut short in 1985 when he suffered a stroke, and he never fully recovered. Such was his standing that the Irish president, Mary Robinson, paid tribute to him at the recent launch of his autobiography.

He is survived by his wife

Molly, and three sons and two daughters. One of his sons, Tony, is a television commen tator very much like his father, while another, Peter, continues to produce the Irish Form Book.

many, including setting up 2, 1920; died November 24, 1996

Michael Haddon

## Freedom is more precious than gold

OR almost half a century Michael Haddon, who has died aged 81, epitomised the faint liberal spirit of Rhodesia. Long before the UDI regime of Ian Smith, he and his wife Eileen fought against an English ver-sion of apartheld in Rhodesia. While Elleen, editor of the Central African Examiner Central African Examiner since 1962, led out in front, it was the quiet and unfiappable support of Michael that sustained her. Only two white Rhodesians were imprisoned under the Smith regime; he was one of them.

Michael was then involved in mining development, be-lieving that Africa could be best served by the exploita-tion of small mines. After years of struggling to prove himself right, he had just "struck gold" when the regime charged him on tech-nicalities over practices that were then common (he was were then common (he was the only individual in the in-dustry charged). He was sent to prison for four years — probably because of his open hostility to the Smith regime and a suspicion that he fed information to British intelligence on sanctions-busting. Michael and his family suffered badly. Eileen had to live on what she could grow in her own garden, and prison for Michael, a famous gourmet cook, was especially hard. He was forced to sell his mine to Lonrho at a knock-down price; it prospered greatly. Michael was born in Kwe Kwe, Southern Rhodesia, and educated at Harrow and the Royal School of Mines, London; in 1937, he went to work in the South African gold mines. In the second world war he served with the South African Artillery, and later with the Royal Marines. After the war, he worked in the Rand gold mines until 1948, when he returned to Southern

He and Eileen had been members of South Africa's Institute of Race Relations and in Rhodesia became increas-ingly politically active. This included involvement with Garfield Todd's United Rhodesia Party, as well as sup-port for St Faith's Mission and the emerging African na-tionalist movement.

After the 1959 Emergency they played key roles in estab-lishing and running the Legal Aid and Welfare Fund to as-Aid and Welfare Fund to as-sist political detainees and their families. Michael also provided Cold Comfort Farm, his small-holding outside Salisbury, for a multiracial cooperative which supported many political dissidents. It

many pointical dissidents. It continues to this day.

He also helped support the Central African Examiner, a progressive journal, which became the target of increasing hostility from the Smith regime because of its outspoken criticism — it was one of the few forums for African opinion. The journal also brought the first test case challenging the legality of the unilateral declaration of inde-pendence (UDI) in November 1965. It was forced to cease publication by censorship in the following month.

On Michael's release in 1969, he and Eileen left the country before the security police had the chance to deain them. He later joined Zambia's mining para-statal Mindeco, and for nine years helped to develop small mines around the country. He also taught at the Zambia University School of Mines. He and Eileen returned to

live in Harare in 1981. In 1983 he was asked to set un Zimba bwe's mining para-statal, in which he played a central role until his retirement in 1990. The couple had two sons

Colin Legum

Michael Fenton Haddon, mining engineer, born July 12, 1915; died November 7, 1995

Letter

Anne Duniop, chair of the the cause? Your obituary Prisoners' Families and noted that "raising money Friends Service. urites: We remains difficult... and yet it were pleased to read the appreciation of our founder. tinue in operation". Raising Sylvia Chancellor (November 21). Thousands of women vol. PFFS has successfully kept uniters, at first drawn from going for 30 years and even in uniteers, at first drawn from now coming from the widest spectrum of society, have given up their spare time to offer information, friendship and support to "our" families. This is surely evidence that there is popular sympathy for | must continue.

Rhodesia and established a mining consultancy business which helped develop many

> money is very difficult but the to meet new needs. With an escalating prison population. we have no doubt that our services are needed now more than ever. We not only expect to continue in operation, we

Birthdays

Trevor Bailey, former England cricketer, 73; Joan Brander, founder, Winged Fellowship Trust, 82; Charles Craig, tenor, 76: Mike Gibson, rugby international, 54; Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 66; Daryl Hannah, actress, 36; Maxwell Hutch inson, architect, 48; Prof Geoffrey Kirk, Greek scholar, 75; Franz Klammer, skier, 43: David McCall chairman of Anglia Television, 62; Ralph McTell, folk guitarist. 52: Tanva Moiseiwitsch, stage and cos-tume designer, 82. The Rev Prof Charles Moule, theologian, 88; Paul Nicholas, actor and singer, 51; Victor Pas-more CH, artist, 88; Bob Phillis, deputy director-gen-eral, BBC, 51; Mel Smith, actor and comedian, 44: Prof Peter Toyne, vice-chancel-lor, rector, John Moores University, Liverpool, 56; Andy Williams, singer, 66; Muriel Wilson, former chairman, of

### Death Notices

RPOCKS. Tim, died 3rd Dec I. aged 48 dearly loved and sed by lamily and injends. HORROCOMINATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT RADLEY Eric John O.B.E. sted on 1st December aged 78 years. First Liberal-Democrat chairman of Gloucestershire County Council.

STROSS, Lady (Swen take of Passetully after a long liness November 1996, White of the take S Stross. Labour MP, and former gist at The Taylstock Clinic. De linetime to improving childicars to

the number of chairs in the

Jackdaw



#### S'Wonderful

FOR Ira Gershwin, having a famous moniker was both a blessing and a curse. Think of the off-repeated true story of the BBC radio announcer referring to Ira as "George's lovely wife". Ira thought it was funny. In the summer of 1977. I met Ira at what he referred to as the Gershwin plantation in Beverly Hills
... The first time I heard him croak out one of his songs in his octogenarian baritone, it was a revelation; like know-

ing "how Columbus felt, find

songs and the memory of the

glory days with George was

ing another world," as Ira

once wrote. His legacy of

the one thing that made him feel young and alive again. Ira rarely shared what was going on inside and maintained a wonderful sense of humour and whimsy. His quips were frequently silly: "I don't feel well, I'm a Rhapsody in Bruise." Alan J Ler-ner described Ira as the only an he knew who was cute. Harry Warren dubbed him president of the imaginary Sweet Fellow Society becaus he never had a bad word for anyone. He was also erudite. prompting the actor Louis to-door encyclopedia salesman telling him he didn't need a set because he knew

Ira Gershwin . . . Michael Feinstein remembers Ira, the brother who wrote George's lyrics, for the Gersh-win centennial tribute concert at Carnegie Hall, New York.

Paradise Enow HIDDEN behind Bow's tombstone grey is Cameron Com-

munity Garden, a pocket

Eden where wild cherry trees pruned like folding tropical

umbrellas tower over a bed of

usually seen on Indian wedding saris. "The young leaves are delicious with potatoes and chilles." I was told by Bangladeshi housewife, Sa leema Khatum. While she picked coriander and "fat en" — the medieval herb that is a member of the Cheno podium family — to curry with six-foot Asian catfish from her local market, I considered the thriving communal garden she shares with families from Jamaica, Pakistan, Somalia, the Yemen and China...One of five estates destined to house some of Tower Hamlets more troubled families, Perring Estate lies in ferro-concrete wilderness, its closest patch of green a cemetery. "This is the kind of estate originally specified by accountants," says Gavin Jones, a painter who has lived here for almost 20 years. "Green was the last colour

dhenki, their flower plumes flushed a shade of pink more

they considered." The idea for a garden was born in 1986, when Gavin and partner Sally Cameron applied for the £1,800 a year that

the housing corperation allotted for lawn-cutting. The site was not inspiring: an air-raid shelter slumbering under a tough hide of scrubby grass that sprouted through bare dirt, surrounded by families who were more used to seeing heroin dealers than Magnolia compbeliti. Locals warned tha council planting often suffered at least 80 per cent vandalism in the first year. Leslie Forbes on a small green wonder in London's East End in Gardens Illustrated.

### Deepest South

ROGER PINCKNEY the tenth .. a descendant of an early British official in the Carolinas...remembers when Beaufort had big canneries where the black women shucked oysters. He makes it sound romantic. "They would sing the whole time and they'd sing spirituals. There'd be 200 women in there, and you could not see over the steam. Opening oys ters and singin' beautiful spirituals. There'd be one old sister, she'd have a high soprano voice, she'd sing the

verse and all of 'em come with in the chorus and they'd sing the whole time they were opening oysters. Yeah," he remembers, "the steam whistle started blowin early in the morning and those mens walk to walk. But we'd go back to sleep. Tom Huth reminisces (locally o favoured conversational mode about islands off the coast of South Carolina US in the

#### Cocktail party

"O! TO HAVE lived in the age strolled across the Place Vendôme and into the Ritz Hotel. Whenever I venture out from the shabbier quartiers of Paris to which the circumstances of life normally confine me and pass into the grand lobbies and reception rooms of the Ritz, I imagine that I am attending a cocktail party catered by the great Auguste Escoffler nearly a century ago . . . I picture little pastries in the shape of boats filled with fish and seafood. and tiny tarts in circles or squares stuffed with meat or

duck; and pancakes of every description: blinis for caviar, plumper pancakes studded with fole gras or pureed herring, and pancakes rolled around savoury fillings and then deep-fried . . . Escoffier has recipes for ravioli, dumplings, plerogi, savoury eclairs and fried turnover of brioche dough filled with pheasant or partridge, ox tongue or truf-fled foie gras. And simplest of all, perfect black caviar and



Off-shore assets . . . Islands

icy oysters -- just by themselves with a drop of lemon, or laid into tiny pastry cases, the caviar a thick carpet on which the oysters wait... Now that's what I call Zakouski! In Escoffier's time, there was a pas-sion for everything Russian, and among the cosmopolites, any array of hors d'ocupres, whether Russian or not, was called by its Russian name, Zakouski . . . the name stuck, at least until DH Lawrence Introparty" in *Lady Chatterley's* 

the Equal Opportunities Com-mission for Northern Ireland,

75: Katarina Witt, figure

leffrey Steingarten in US Vogue on the world of Za-kouski, nibbles rather beyond peanuts or sausage rolls: he gives a modern NY recipe for canapė-sized BTL sandwich

### Future shock

I VISITED the home of one professional lady who has taken in 14 children . . . Her little white house, set back from the road in a quiet sub-urb of Kigali, has a living room with radio switched on to the news, a religious pic-ture above the door and a low coffee table. The giveaway is

room. The kitchen door opens and three or four children come in The bedroom door, and another four come out Another door behind and yet more children stream in... The youngest child comes in, small, toothless in front. He has no parents and no other family... I ask him what he wants to do when he grows up. Firmly he replies (through his interpreting foster mother) that he wants to play football. The little girl beside him, aged seven, pipes up that she wants to be a banker. Most of the children say that they want to be bankers too. A girl of 15 says no. she wants to be a doctor, and another of 10 says she wants to be a teacher. A boy of 14

Emma Nicholson meets Ruonda's orphans in The Tablet. You can E-mail us, we're

to run a business.

says seriously that he wants

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Edited by Vanessa Harlowe

# Finance Guardian

Clarke's sterling dilemma intensifies

## Pound breaks mark barrier

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

HE Government's dilemma over the strength of sterling intensified last night as the pound powered through the key DM2.60 barrier against the German mark in New York

With industrialists already railing against the blow to export competitiveness caused by the appreciation since the of an imminent rise in UK base rates led to a fresh wave

of selling.

The domestic factors pushing up the pound were compounded by remarks from the Bundesbank president, Hans

In an interview with a German magazine, Mr Tietmeyer hinted that he would prefer to see the mark weaker, a senti-ment backed up by the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and the French President Jacques Chirac.

Sterling held steady against the dollar at \$1.6850 and closed in London at 94.5 per cent of its 1990 value against a basket of world currencies its highest level since September 17 1992, the day after The pound rose by just over | week to discuss mometary a pfennig against the mark on | policy. the City's foreign exchanges, but just failed to climb through the DM2.60 level, closing at 2.5989.

However, renewed pressure on the mark on Wall Street meant the pound was stand-ing at DM2.61 in afternoon

Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, next ply indicated that the stron-

Mr Clarke is aware that a further increase in base rates could cause more problems for industry by pushing the pound still higher, but will be

under pressure from Mr George to take steps to cool trading in New York.

The further appreciation in sterling will sharpen the debate when the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, meets the yesterday. The monthly report from the Chartered In-stitute of Purchasing and Sup-

Managers Index - a composite of order books, output stocks, delivery times and em-ployment — fell marginally in November, the first reduction

aince May. According to the report, industry's output is still rising but the rate of growth has slowed over the Data from the Bank of England showed that the narrow

ger pound may alreedy be having an impact on the manufacturing sector.

The overall Purchasing 7.4 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

(M0) grew by 0.9 per cent in would be increased again at the monetary policy meeting annual growth rate up from a week tomorrow. Failing that, we are likely to see an Mo is seen by some economists as a reasonable guide to the strength of high street ac-tivity. Figures have shown the demand for cash on an upward trend this year, with growth in MO now well out-

> 4 per cent.
> David Coleman, economist with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said there

> side its monitoring range of 0-

increase in January, although we do not expect rates to be raised by more than 25 basis points between now and the

election," he said. Mr Coleman added that the Bundesbank would be contant with the foreign exchange reaction as "it will take some of the pressure off the Germonetary policy

## Rate rise 'will help sustain recovery'

EARS among mort-gage lenders that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will put up interest rates next week to dampen down an "over-heating" economy are driving up the cost of loans, it became clear last night. But experts dismissed

prices rose 6.5 per cent in November and were up 7.3 per cent on a year ago ac-cording to the Halifax and dearer mortgages would put a brake on the housing recovery.
Two of Britain's biggest

mortgage suppliers yester day announced they will raise their rates following Abbey National's decision to increase charges to its 1.6 million borrowers for worries in some quarters the first time in two years. that the combination of Gerry Marsh, Halifax

base rates of 7 to 7.5 per cent and mortgage rates of per cent plus towards the end of next year. Northern Rock, Britain's

7th largest building society, is to increase its standard variable rate by 0.5 per cent to 7.49 per cent on January 2. Adam Applegarth, the society's execu-tive director, said; "Our "Our

ber's house price rise con-firmed his view that the market recovery is sustain-able. He predicted bank next month or so." any danger in the market, it is of the recovery over-heating and becoming un-sustainable. The small rises The Coventry, the UK's 12th largest society, is to put its standard rate up by 0.26 per cent to 7.25 per

> Housing analyst Rob Thomas, of Swiss bank UBS, predicted lenders would follow the Abbey National within days. He dismissed fears that the housing recovery could stall. He said: "If there is

will stop it getting out of hand and sustain the

gage Lemmell of Mort-gage Lemmels of Mort-gage Lemmers' quarterly there, but go for a full one economics journal, chief point rise. recovery."
In the Council of Mortthe increase in households moving implied net mort-gage lending to existing owner-occumiers of about ple of years.

policy changes to a minimum.
For all that, canny Ken's
calculations — political and
economic — will remain inder scrutiny and, via the minutes of his meetings with Mr George, that scrutiny will

EVENGE may be a dish best consumed cold, but not in the City. The reaction to the news from Raways going to come under the dollar.

# Eddie's steady eye fixed on Ken



Edited by Mark Milner

Notebook

Clarke has pledged that there will be no return to boom and bust for the British economy. Not under his stewardship at least. As Mr Clarke acknowl-

edged in his budget address, Eddie (George, the governor of the Bank of England) will keep him steady. For many in the City that means interest rates will have to go up. In-deed, hardliners reckon the Chancellor should not pussy foot around with a quarter of

It could be argued that pushing base rates up to 7 per cent would restore a degree of balance to the econom would certainly knock back consumer confidence — and with it, consumer spending. It could also, by removing any thought of further rate rises, take some of the steam out of sterling. That would help those of Britain's exporters already feeling the pressure

of a very perky pound.
On the other hand, Mr.
Clarke made it clear that he has designed his budget package with the intention of avoiding any further increase in interest rates. The Abbey National, for one, has taken the argument on board. It has raised its mortgage rates to catch up with the last rise in base rates, but had held off until now in case a further hike was part of Mr Clarke's

budget planning. For obvious political research, the Chancellor will not want to see base rates forced up again. The election is just months away. The closer polling day comes, the more difficult will it become for Mr Clarke to beed calls for dearer borrowing. To be fair the Chancellor's record since he moved into No 11 Downing Street is to keep economic

#### **Bad reception**

cal that its military radios business would stray into the red this year was swift and savage, knocking more than 18 per cent off the share price. The timing of the downturn at the tactical radio business. which accounted for almost one-fifth of last year's profits, is certainly unfortunate. Racal's heavyweight position in the global market in the mili-

titack Flat demand inevita-bly intensified the pressure, not least from France and the United States (where a few post-Gulf war favours may or may not have been called in from Middle East custom Racal could argue that it had seen the writing on that particular wall and has been hard at work to build up its non-defence related areas of operation. The snag is that the crunch has come at the Radio Group before the full benefits have come in from for example, Racal's acquisitions or the (expensive) reorganisation of the Data Products Group, now ex-pected to generate a "modest profit" in the second half of

the year. What shareholders may find hardest to accept is that there was no hint of the problems at the annual meeting in August when Racal predicted it would beat last year's profits of £70 million. Now it is looking to make £50 million. For a company in the commu-nications business, Racal appears to have been slow to get the bad news out.

#### **Bucking the trend**

T MIGHT be thought an amusing irony that the only country which currently meets the Masstricht criteria for monetary union is Luxemits own currency. Rather less amusing, for those trying to amusing, for those trying to make a single currency hap-pen and work, is the knowl-edge that one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the way of EMU is the currency of a country which lan't even part

of Europe, namely the dollar.
That might look odd. What has the dollar to do with European monetary union, except to serve (perhaps) as a role model? The answer lies in the greenback's relationable with the comments of the serve to serve the serve to serve the serve that the server to serve the server to serve the server to serve the server to server the server in the green In the summer of 1969, a dollar bought two marks. Since then its value has gone mainly downhill, defying widespread financial market expectation on the way. It is not so long ago, after all, that currency analysts were pre-dicting the currency would be about DM1.60 to DM1.80 to the dollar. This year it has crept up to about DM1.50, having spent much of 1995 at around DM1.40 to DM1.45. As the dollar has sunk

against the mark, so its value has fallen against those most closely linked to the German currency, not least the French franc. It is not so much that a weak dollar makes life more difficult for French exporters to the US, rather it is the edge it gives American firms selling into the Deutschemark zone.

France is not suffering in silence. Already there are mutterings in Paris that the Germans should try to get the mark lower against the dollar or, if they refuse that France should act unilaterally. Last weekend Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac papered over the cracks — for the time being. Over the coming months much hot air will be expended in Europe on the issue of EMU. Expect some of it to be directed at talking up

## Watchdog casts fresh eye on chat calls



ELEPHONE regula-tors have ordered an emergency review of the booming business in "virtual" chatlines and proposals for action are expected next month, it emerged yesterday. The ur-gent inquiry has been trig-gered by a spate of horror stories involving huge bills run up by "chat addicts". Teenage children, babysit-ters and family relations are reported to have clocked up vast sums on unauthorised

- has had reports of bills running to £5,000. In addition, concerns have been raised about "adult" material discovered on some services.

Drivers from among 200 picked to drive BMWs shipped to Singapore for delegates at the five-day World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting muct week

Live chatlines involving multiple callers were banned in 1992, but from last year a number of companies found a way around the rules. They built a small delay into the conversations, thus classifying their product as a message service.

This delay has been shaved to a split second on some ser-vices, hence the phrase "virtual chatline". Icstis has

Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Teleplaints about virtual chaiphone information Services
has had reports of bills months, 273 of which have
has had reports of bills months, 273 of which have
that its "Racing Telegraph" betting-tip service had picked
inclusion in a directory on the
inclusion in a directory on the
internet. R was not disclosed gated and discovered the come in during this year to

> yesterday in Icstis's latest monthly report include: Suggestions of sex with anvice provided by Cord Com-munications of Liverpool; "I like anything with four legs. Anything", ran part of a

message;
• Suggestions of sex with mi nors on a message carried by Internet Diectory of Basildon. The same company was found to have sent unsolicited faxes

Internet. It was not disclosed that the number given for the faxes was charged at an inter-national premium rate;

• The couning of customers of a data collection service into using high-tariff tele-phone lines without their knowledge. In one case, a high-tariff line was promoted as being a mobile 'phone number, in others, complain ants said they were kept waiting on a premium line then asked to fax details on another premium line;
• The claim by Tele

tential Group of Clevedon

Tories back heavier lorries

A boom in live tarot-card readings has lad to 83 complaints about such services this year so far. In one case, the company, Start Anew of Manchester, has been banned from all telephone circuits. Ic-stis found the company had put one caller on hold seven times, "each time for between

betting-tip service had picked a 1250-1 winner. Icstis investi-

gated and discovered the

three and 10 minutes".
In addition, an operator ha suggested a meeting with the caller; later, Start Anew said, the operator left the company to move closer to the caller.

## 'Peak Practice' The Peak Practice model

**Davies rejects** 

Mark Miner Deputy Financial Editor

HE deputy governor of the Bank of England, Howard Davies, yester day rejected radical propossis which would give the Trea-sury the leading role in financial supervision in the UK. Mr Davies described the arguments behind so-called "Peak Practice" concept of regulation where two comnissions - one covering systemic risk and the other rela

tions between financial institutions and their retail clients - as "considered and But he added: "We are not

convinced that the substan-tial upheaval and the cost in-volved would be warranted."

assumed a very wide range of institutions could be defined as systemic, said Mr Davies. But he continued: "Were a single institution to conduct prudential supervision for everything from banks to insurance companies, it would still need to tailor the rules to meet the characteristics of particular types of business.'

Giving the sixth annual Anthony Howitt lecture, Mr Davies argued that the convargance between banks and securities houses had not yet developed sufficiently for them to be regulated effec-tively by the same institution.

"We continue to take the view that banks are a unique type of financial institution,"

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

France 8.5250 Germany 2.5135 Greece 398.00 Hong Kong 12.71 India 60.02

Italy 2,508 Malta 0,5840 Natherlande 2,8350 New Zealand 2,2935 udi Arabia 8.28

Singapore 2.51 South Africa 7.55 Spain 212.40 Sweden 11.15

### Former chemicals mogul and finance chief convicted on MTM false accounting charges

chatline calls, and the regulator Icstis - the Independent

ICHARD Lines, one-time chemical-industry mogul and self-described ex-member of the elite Special Boat Service was yesterday found guilty of fraudulently inflating his company's worth by 2250 million. An Old Bailey jury convicted Lines on two counts of talse accounting and

Dan Atkinson

one count of making false Sir John Harvey-Jones had appeared as a character witness for Lines, a one-time col-league at the chemical giant ICL Sir John told jurors Lines had a "hands-on approach" nd was "a very hard driver". Lines, an ex-merchant sea-period June 1, 1990 to March But the court found Lines man, built up MTM after a 6, 1991. and was "a very hard driver".

by shuffling money and using grew rapidly, but on March 2, false documents to conjure up records of sales that had counts would be delayed and never happened. His former finance director, Thomas Baxter, was convicted on one charge of false accounting and one of making misleading statements, but cleared on a second false-accounting

charge. The convictions mark the investigation and prosecution by the Serious Fraud Office and North Yorkshire Police.

Lines, aged 60, and Baxter, aged 45, will be sentenced later. December 1994. The first count — on which Baxter was cleared - related to the

had propped up the profits of career as salesman-manager his MTM chemical company at ICI. Floated in 1986, MTM 1992, it announced its ac profits would be short of the £23 million expected by the

This warning was under-lined on March 9, 1992. Lines and Baxter resigned later that month; the shares crashed from £2.86% before the first announcement to 10p later in end of four-and-a-balf years of 1992. About 2250 million was wiped off MTM's market Both men were charged in

EAVIER lorries on the roads, raising the cur-rent limit from 38 to 44 tonnes — and the blood pres sure of transport campaigners - were approved in prin-ciple by the Government

Keith Harper

yesterday.
John Watts, the transport minister, said the Government was seeking views on whether to allow six-exje lorries to operate from either January 1999 or as late as Ministers are also seekin

views on the possibility of

speeding the use of 44-tons

and from ports, provided this tourner would produce "supe-can be done without any in-rior environmental and ecorease in lorry miles.
Mr Watts claimed that 44tonne six-axie lorries caused less road wear and would carry more goods. "They would also be no noisier and have the same stopping dis-tance as 38 tozners.

"Let me be very clear that no change is proposed to lorry size. Heavier vehicles would be no larger than existing vehicles."

But the changes of the Government getting approval this side of an election are slim. The move is likely to produce opposition from among the Government's own ranks. The Freight Transport Association said that the 44

nomic benefits" and would not adversely affect the growth of freight rall opportu-It would save more than 300 million litres of fuel each year, lead to less congestion, and take 9,000 vehicles of the

Anti-roads group Transport 2000 said: "The last thing Britain needs is even beavier lorries. All research suggests that they are more dangerous and intrusive."

Labour's abadow transport secretary, Andrew Smith, said that the public would be "opening the way to still

المكنا من الرجل



David Tennant, who appears as Touchstone in As You Like it at London's Barbican theatre, gives brewers at Teddington distillery a celebratory to its articles of a performance to mark Alliad Domaco's renewal of sponsorship of the Royal Shakespeare Company for two years

PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEN

ment of battlefield systems in

a bid to win an oft-delayed

Army contract worth a poten-

tract will not be awarded

Paul Beaver, an analyst

with Jane's Defence Weekly, the London-based industry

magazine, speculated that Ra-

cal has just been eliminated from a \$250 million contract

until early 1999.

## Directors targeted by chairman's dismissal call

## **Emap rebels ousted** after 'bitter row'

rebel directors inboardroom row at Emap, were last night unrepentant after being ousted from the media group's board in an extraordinary general meeting.
During the meeting at London's New Connaught Rooms, the pair were defeated after institutional shareholders overwhelmingly backed Emap's chairman, Sir John Hoskyns, who had led calls

However, they still won support from investors — including institutions — representing over 10 per cent of every vote cast, while Sir John had to endure a stream of criticism from angry

The meeting also saw a number of attacks on Emap chief executive Robin Miller, who had been widely expected to replace Sir John when he retires in the summer of 1998, but who is now encounter

During the meeting, Sir John reminded shareholders of the events leading to the row, which centred on contra to its articles of association

The changes, opposed by the rebels, made it possible to remove directors if three-quarters of the board approved.

The changes, opposed by readily backed the changes to the articles. Describing Mr Miller's behaviour as "power-seeking and manipulative", he said there was now a question.

At a meeting in July to ap-At a meeting in July to approve the new rules, Sir John pledged they would not be used to remove the pair.

But Sir John, who subsequently asked Professor Simmonds to resign, said the

relationship between the rebels and the rest of the board had now deteriorated even further.

He added: "Will shareholders fire the board and back Ken and Joe, or keep the board? That's what it boils down to." In response, Prof Sim-monds said neither he or Mr

Cooke regretted that the issue had come to an extraordinary general meeting, adding that the damage done to Emap's share price by the row was less than the potential damage that an inappropriate governance structure could

He added: "I don't think this meeting is about Joe Cooke and I trying to protect our jobs on the Emap board— we have served long enough. However you vote, we shall sleep easily, as we have dis-charged our duties as non-excutive directors." During his speech, Mr. Cooke attacked Mr. Miller,

(wo new non-executives. the board should have consid

Mr Cooke for their "tenacity speculating as to why he had

tion about whether he de-served to succeed Sir John as chairman — adding that the other non-executives had been "whipped into line" by Sir John. Mr Cooke, who was heckled Mr Cooke, who was beckled by a number of Emap staff at-tending the meeting, added: "We are expendable, but we believe that our duty has been done; more shareholders have now got the vital message that changes made at the agm represent a potent threat to the future profitability of Emap."

The rebels were backed by Pirc, the corporate gover-nance consultancy, whose joint managing director, Anne Simpson, called on Emap to replace Prof Sim-monds and Mr Cooke with

chairman of Emap, who said ered alternatives to July's After the meeting, Sir John thanked Prof Simmonds and

and advocacy", and said he regretted the publicity the Emap shares closed 5%p

## Racal warning of profit cut stuns City Regulator slows

Tony May

communications and defence electronics group, stunned the City yesterday with a warning that profits would be down by might fall prey to a predator.
nearly one-third this year. It The board said a plunge in nearly one-third this year. It was punished by seeing £145 military orders at its Radio million wiped off its stock Group business, particularly market value. Group business, particularly from the Middle East, would

Analysts noted that in push that operation into the August, chairman Sir Ernest Harrison, had said profits would be up this year and to about £50 million. That in-

ago after its joint stock-broker, Merrill Lynch, downgraded its profits forecast. Some observers said power ful City fund managers were

could push for resignations. In the longer term, the group

which is best known for operating the National Lottery network.

furlous with the board and Since the Gulf War, Racal, which once claimed about 25 market outside the US, has seen its share progressively eroded by US companies such as ITT and Texas Instru-ments. It has lost out on contracts from Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait and has also faced tougher

lysts, who had been forecast-ing a rise in profits of about one-third to between £85 million and £94 million for the full year, and in minutes the shares fell nearly 20 per cent to a 22-month low of 224p.

Analysts will be pressing the group hard at a meeting today when the board promises to make a full statement after announcing a fall in half-year profits from £31.9 million to £21 million. Analysis said the Radio div-

exceptional charge of a fur- in a market that has not every UK police force as well which he predicted would be ther £20 million for the reorigrown as quickly as expected. as the Navy, Customs and awarded to a French company ganisation of its Data Group. The news shocked City ana. Ministry of Defence police next year. services — was spending millions of pounds on develop-

The best gloss Racal could put on affairs yesterday was to say that progress was being made with Data Products, where first-half losses were similar to last year's after an additional £5 million expenditure on research and develop-

The board expects the Data sector to generate a modest profit in the second half. Racal edded: "With a substantial increase in profits from the Data Group, the results in 1997-98

# electricity market

industrial Editor

EARS that a "big bang" introduction of competition in the domestic electricity market could plunge the system into chaos yesterday led the industry watchdog to unreil a slow-burn beginning to <u>liberalisation</u>.

The industry has been preparing for the introduc-tion of competition in April 1998 since its privatication, six years ago, but the regional companies have insists that the chobeen castigated for dragging their feet and trying to spectrum of customers. protect local monopolies.

have stepped up pressure for the start-date to be put back, and Stephen Littlechild, director general of trying to co-ordinate, pro-electricity supply, gave voking concerns that the way yesterday, announcing same disruptions seen in plans to phase in competi-tion over six months. the gas market will be repeated with electricity.

In a consultation paper, the regulator said he proposed to open the door to competition for only 2 mil-lion customers in April 1998. Eight weeks later, a further 3.5 million customers will be brought in, then after another eight weeks the net will widen to in-clude another 6 million. The reminaining 50 per cent will be brought in

cent will be brought in from September 16. Prof Littlechild said at every stage pilot areas would be chosen within in each franchise region. He insists that the chosen areas should offer a broad

The opening of the gas The power companies market has seen widespread computer problems, and billing errors. A total of 19 organisations are

## **Kenwood tries to blend** South right management mix African

OUTLOOK/Rebel shareholders push for proach from Pifco falls short of a serious bid and — to keep the Takeover Panel happy — will say as much with its maker. LISA BUCKINGHAM reports

training ground for company today reveal interim profits which are likely to be closer to the £8 million achieved two years back than the £7.4 million scored in the first half of

It will be the second time in the group's four years as a publicly quoted company that it has had the unpleasant task of announcing an earnings reversal — a shock despite a recent warning.

Atrocious conditions in its main European markets, Italy and France, have scarred the performance which was already under pressure following an over-ambitious series of acquisitions.
The results will appear to

underline the arguments now being put by rebel sharehold ers, the UK Active Value Fund headed by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson that Kenwood is doomed to underperform the stock mar ket and investors should sell out prontissimo to almost any suitor willing to cough up. Following reports that household appliance group. Pifco — whose brands include Russell Hobbs and Carmen Pifco — whose brands include | lems have been well flagged | shares gyrate | Russell Hobbs and Carmen | for two years. Kenwood seems | and 189p may | left |

Schief executive, Brian capital.

Stewart, yesterday hailed the return of the community pub.

recently neglected by brewers

in favour of busy city centre

doing things in these pubs. We have all been concentrat-

ing on the high street," Mr

the Barras brand to pubs out-

side city centres and high

streets and has now decided

the idea will be "aggressively

rolled out" over the next two

years. The development of the first 24 pubs, it said, had suc-

S & N has been introducing

Brewers were backing off

Roger Cowe

locations.

TTCHEN appliance proached Kenwood, the group Kenwood is in UKAV fund said there was danger of looking like a "sound commercial and industrial logic" for merging

the two companies. Messrs Treger and Myerson who adopted a similarly confrontational approach to investment at jewellery group, Signet, the property company, Greycoat, as well as Scholl and Hogg Robinson — started to mix it at the mixer group in the summer. They added yesterday that the idea of a share offer for Kenwood — which would mean a change of management -

should be explored. Even for a company which has underperformed the stock market by 50 per cent since its flotation and is facing an extraordinary meeting to consider calls to sell off the group, this is stern stuff. Few would disagree that Kenwood has failed to cope with being a minnow in a highly competitive market. Its product range remains too diverse and cost control has

not been rigorous enough. But buyers do not appear to be queuing up for Kenwood — which produces some of the best recognised kitchen uten-sils — even though its prob-

**S&N trumpet return of the community pub** 

creased spending. As a result the investment has produced

Mike Benner, of the real ale

campaign Camra, welcomed the investment but warned

against what he called "the

McDonaldisation" of the pub.

with increasing use of

themes. The success of Barras and the new Chef & Brewer format will build on what Mr

Stewart described as "an out-

standing six-month period" in

The number of pubs fell to

comply with Monopolies

Commission conditions at-

tached to the Courage take-

over, but sales rose by 4 per cent while profits increased

S & N's pub business.

ceeded in luring more people by double that rate to £87 mil-into these local pubs, while lion.

a 25 per cent return on

results today.

That could mean the company's dissidents have to burn on a slightly longer fuse. Other shareholders are likely to give the highly credible new management at Kenwood 12 months to pull the com-pany round — it seems improbable that a chairman of the calibre of David Nash. who was pipped for the top job at Grand Metropolitan, would be unable to command a stay of execution from seri-

ous investors. An overhaul of the Renwood boardroom should be complete once a marketing director is brought on board. Crucially, Antony Douglas's appointment as director of manufacturing indicates a rethink of this part of the group's operations. Details of

a wider strategy review may also emerge today. Kenwood's new brooms should be able to produce savings. And, given the tendency of new managements to load as much as possible in their own favour, any bounce back will take place from a low base once all the possible bad news has been included in

Kenwood's problems may in the end defeat Mr Nash's team. But shareholders who have seen the value of their shares gyrate between 380p and 189p may as well hold on

than a quarter in the period,

boosted by the inclusion of

Courage for the full six months, and despite difficul-

ties in the leisure division,

which embraces Center Parcs and Pontin's.

Leisure profits fell by 11 per

cent to £45 million as the con-

tinental Center Parcs sites

conditions and a number of

In brewing, the new Scottish Courage division pro-duced profits of almost

the company had lost some

market share. However, part

of this lost volume had been

replaced by soaring exports,

while profits had also been

increase in marketing.

one-off costs.

# media stymies

Nuarith Nicoli In Johannesburg

PEARSON's attempt to move into the South African media market has been derailed after Caxgroup, won a court case that allows it to stop the

deal in its tracks. Pearson was due to com-plete a deal with the Times Media Group on Thursday which would have given it control of the two main business newspapers, Business Day and the Financial Mail. Business Day, which sells 38,000 copies a day, had even planned to honour its incoming owner by

In the wake of the judgment, Terry Moolman, Cax-ton's managing director, was yesterday making up his mind about whether to take out an injunction to stop the deal. Meanwhile, he advised Pearson not to proceed without consulting him. "All we're saying is: 'Let's just think about this'." he said.

The judgment that has allowed Caxton to put the anowed carton to put in boot in surrounds a "restraint of trade" agree-ment made when nearly half of Caxton was bought by Argus Holdings — part of mining conglomerate Anglo American — in 1980. At that time, Argus had planned to buy Caxton outright, although it never

happened. Under the terms of the agreement with Caxton, Argus was prevented from publishing local newspapers or magazines. After the 1994 election, Anglo American unbundled its media assets, selling 48 per cent of a newly formed group. Times Media, to the National Empowerment £90 million. Mr Stewart said Consortium, which is designed to broaden black ownership of South Africa's businesses. Other newspapers were sold to Tony O'Reilly's Dublin- Jose Ignacio Lopez: supported by a 4 per cent real based Independent group.

## VW shares sta over spy row

GM refuses to drop charges against car

HARES in Volkswagen, Europe's biggest car-maker, fell by almost 6

HARES in Volkswagen, settlement.

Both were reaffirmed at the Pearson per cent yesterday after General Motors made clear it would not drop charges of industrial espionage against its arch-rival despite last week's

resignation of VW executive, Jose Ignacio Lopez. VW shares fell as much as DM36.55(£14) to DM582.2, or almost 6 per cent. The shares took a similar dive last week after an American court al lowed GM to proceed with its Industrial espionage lawsuit against VW under racketeer-

ng legislation. Investors showed their disappointment and anxiety that the resignation of purchasing chief Mr Lopez had not brought VW any closer to a settlement with GM, said Michael Klein, an analyst at

Delbrueck & Co. GM and its German subsidiary, Opel, accuse Mr Lopez of stealing industrial secrets when he left the company to join VW in 1993, taking seven other GM executives with

him. The two sides are due to appear in a Detroit court today for the latest stage in a civil action GM is taking against VW under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organi-sations Act.

The sacking of Mr Lopez was one of GM's chief prerequisites for an out-of-court settlement but there is little or no sign of agreement on two other demands — a full



rival, says **Denis Staunton in Berlin** 

weekend by David Herman, Opel's American chairman who said, however, that an out-of-court settlement was desirable. "I can't imagine that if someone admits an error and wants to rectify the situation we would not be willing to talk to them," he

told the Wall Street Journal. But VW fears that by admitting wrongdoing on the part of Mr Lopez, it could prejudice criminal proceedings pending in both Germany and the United States. It favours a mutual expression of regret by both sides, with GM admitting that it unfairly damaged VW's reputation with its spy ing accusations — unaccept able to a crusading, obsessive

Despite his resignation from VW, Mr Lopez remains a stumbling block in the way of a settlement. He is planning to set up a consultancy in Germany and will almost certainly continue to influence VW through his close relat ionship with its chairman. Ferdinand Piech.

at Mr Piech's continuing sup-GM executives are furious port for Mr Lopez, who will continue to draw a salary of more than DM400,000 a month expires in 1998.
"Usually you'd see people distancing themselves from an individual defendant and

pledging co-operation with the authorities," one GM source reportedly said. GM refuses to say how much financial compensation it wants from VW but Ger man media reports have men-tioned figures as high as DM7.5 billion. VW denies that it inflicted any financial damage on its rival but it could be prepared to agree to compensating GM by other means. Mr Lopez floated this idea in October but the bitterness of the dispute between the two car glants meant that no pro-

gess could be made on such a deal until he left VW. VW yesterday sought to fill the management gap left by the departure of Mr Lopez, who is credited with turning around the company's fortunes. VW shares fell more than 490 to close at 593, down 25.75, or 4.1690 after falling as low es DM582.2

## News in brief

on Freemans' sale

Sears comes clean

SEARS, the retailing group run by Liam Strong, has finally confirmed a Guardian report that it is considering selling off its Freemans mail-order business. Exploratory talks are underway with a number of unnamed parties.

Industry specialists reckon the business could fetch £350 million or more, and have cited Littlewoods, the pools-to-retailing combine, and Otto Versand, the German mail-order group, as potential buyers. Interest has also been shown by British mail-

order group N Brown. Analysts suggested Sears was likely to distribute proceeds to shareholders, with plans to distribute £80 million from a property sale already at an advanced stage. — Paul Murphy

### MAM sells Swiss banking arm

INVESTMENT fund manager Mercury Asset Management is selling its Swiss private banking subsidiary for £116 million in cash to Luxembourg-based Safra Republic Holdings, which already has a Swiss banking arm, Republic National Bank of New York (RBN Suisse). Mercury Bank made profits before tax of £9 million for the year ending March 31, 1996. — Pouline Springett

#### Door still open says Greycoat GREYCOAT, the property group, insisted last night that it had

ont rejected merger proposals from Moorfield Estates.

Greycoat, which is almost 10 times bigger than Moorfield, said it would only respond to its rival once it had received clarification of what exactly was being proposed. — Ian Eng

### Fall in French jobless total

FRENCH unemployment fell in October in what economists said was just a reprieve before further rises The number out or we're fell by 12,000 to 3.1 million compared with September, the Labour ministry said. That left the unemployment rate unchanged at 12.6 per cent, a post-war high. — Bloombarg

### Stakis profits climb 23pc

STAKIS, the Glasgow-based hotel and casino group, said yester-day that the improving state of the economy had helped it lift full year pre-tax profits by 23 per cent to £30.7 million — despite a dip in profits at its casino division.

According to analysts, the company is likely to make another £30 million in profits from Metropole Hotels, acquired last month from Lonrho for £327 million. Stakis shares closed 1p higher at 91½p — writes Ion King.

### Hollinger securities sale

CONRAD Black's Hollinger International and a subsidiary filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday to sell as much as \$1.3 billion (\$773,000) in securities. The Canadian publishing company, which owns the Daily Telegraph, the Chicago Sun-Times and the Jeruslem Post, plans to sell \$300 million in the form of debt securities, convertible securities, preferred stock or class A common shares, and to offer another \$500 million. stock or class A common shares, and to offer another \$500 million in debt or convertible securities. — Bloomberg

## Stars find no appetite for **Beckerfest**

Stephen Bierley in Munich

NLY a short time ago the organisers of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup were crowing ostentatiously about the line-up for the dollarladen men's end-of-season tournament, which opens this morning with Germany's Michael Stich, the former Wimbledon champion, play-ing Britain's Tim Henman, would love to see win Wim-

bledon. Or anything. Not only was this city going to play host to six top Americans, the original story ran, it was also planning to give a rousing send-off into retirement to Sweden's Stefan Edberg. Not any more it's not. Edberg, quita rightly, de-cided that Malmo and the

Davis Cup would be his swan-song, preferring to put tradition ahead of mere money while the American contingent was halved at the week-end when Pete Sampras and Michael Chang, the world No. 1 and No. 2 respectively, were joined by Todd Martin on the sick-list.

Martin's shoulder injury genuinely troubles him but both Chang and Sampras ap-pear to be more sick of tennis (or at least the European vari-ety) than anything else. Add the name of Austria's Thomas Muster to the original 16 who had qualified for this knockout affair and it becomes clear that, in its seventh year,

it is struggling. Next year it will be or less coinciding with Munich's famously beery Oktoberfest. When all is said and done this is meant to be yet another *Beckerfest*, as was the

29-year-old German. The ATP Finals, in which

the world's top eight players compete, will doubtless survive even if it has to switch countries, because the players run the tour and you will not catch them pulling out of their own event. They care less for this competition which falls under the auspices of the International Tennis Federation, which runs the four Grand Slams.

The ITF president Brian To-bin came out strongly in Malmo for an unchanged Davis Cup competition, after attacks by figures he dubbed "malcontents". Sampras and Agassi have suggested it could be held every two or four years but Tobin's de-fence of a tradition dating back to 1900 was echoed on Sunday night by France's non-playing captain Yannick Noah after his team had achieved a glorious 3-2 vic-tory over Sweden on a final day which produced two fiveset matches of vivid theatre. As Noah eloquently stated, the Davis Cup is not about in-dividuals or contracts but

about players coming together as a team. And for every Sampras or Agassi, thank good-ness, there is an Edberg. Jeremy Bates, who takes over as the LTA's national manager of men's training next month, is non-playing captain of the British squad at the eight-nation elite European Team Championships which start in Reggio Calabria, Italy today. With Tim Henman in Mu-

nich and Greg Rusedski rested, Britain's top man is the world No. 195 Danny Sapsford, who is joined in a stiff assignment by two untried left-handers in Andrew Richardson and Paul Robinson.



Davis delight . . . France's Arnaud Boetsch silences critics of the cup

nor Ind. Cd.

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Sport in brief

IKE TYSON may have lost his world heavy-weight title but he tops the 1996 earnings table by a knockout margin. According to Forbes Magazine his three fights this year amassed \$75 million (245 million) a record for any soorislion), a record for any sports-man in a single year. Basket-ball's Michael Jordan, with \$52 million, slips off the top for the first time in five years but could bounce back with a 30 million contract and merchandising expected to total

\$100 million next year.
The top European, and
third on the list, is Germany's
Formula One driver Michael Schumacher, paid \$25 million by Ferrari and \$8 million by sponsors. Damon Hill, world champion this year, is top Briton with \$8.2 million, 34th on the list.

#### Cycling

Miguel Indurain resumed training yesterday, dashing widespread speculation that the five-times Tour de France winner was about to retire.

The seven-times champions Southgate, the most successful club in the history of the HA Cup, have drawn Premier Division opposition for the third successive round of this way. successive round of this winter's competition, writes Put Rouley. The joint leaders of the National League are away to Surbiton, who held them to a 2-2 draw at Long Ditton in the league a month ago. Most of the nine Premier clubs left in the competition have been given a great chance to reach the last eight; the only other all-Premier match is between Old Loughtonians, last season's runners up, and Houns low, former winners. IOW, ROTMET WINDERS.
HA CUP: First-round draws Beaston v
Reeding, Cannock v Stourport, Cholmsford
v Canterbury. High Wycombe v
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Loughtoniane v Hounslow, St Abbase v
Loughtoniane v Hounslow, St Abbase v
Loughtoniane v Routhopie (all

## Tyson's Caumrue chaos record leads to Plush rake-in win for Harvey

opened at Wincanton yesterday when a series of bizarre incidents enabled Too Plush to come home the luckiest of winners in the Nightingale Sings Handicap Chase.

Approaching the second-last fence, it was plain sailing for Tony McCoy on Five To Seven, who had a healthy lead over The Mine Captain and Too Plush — until the rider-less The Caumrue, a faller at the same fence on the previ-ous circuit, galloped the wrong way up the straight. Five To Seven refused at

the fence, having been brought to a standstill by the loose horse, leaving the way clear for Jimmy McCarthy

and The Mine Captain.
But they were also ham-pered by The Caumrue and The Mine Captain dug his toes in, catapulting McCarthy into the fence. Too Plush was able to nego-

tiate the final two fences in splendid Isolation, with Five To Seven continuing to finish a distant second. The Mine Captain was remounted to finish third, three lengths away.

Winning jockey Luke Har-vey beamed as he returned to the winner's enclosure: "This is the lucklest winner I have

had in my life." McCoy went on to win the final two races on Second Call and General Mouktar, but at Worcester Adrian Maguire went one better with a 41-1 treble courtesy of Pharanear. Forest Ivory and Lord Of The

West.
Pharanear just got the better of Tressure Again in an informative race for the Bet With The Tota Novice Chase. Treasure Again "delighted" trainer Merrita Jones on his fencing debut. She said: "He's

him to do bar win. He jumped well but just idled a little in file with him for now."

However, the stewards were far from impressed with Derek Byrne's use of the whip aboard the runner-up and banned him for three days (December 11 to 13) for improper riding.

Maguire has at last put his injury problems behind him and looked more his old self in a driving finish on Pharanear. He can enjoy further suc-cess at Newton Abbot today.

Hawaiian Youth (2.20) is an interesting ride for Ma-guire in the Cork Handicap Chase. Formerly trained by Richard Rowe, Hawaiian Youth has won first time out for the past three seasons and will not mind the testing conditions underfoot.

In an uncompetitive look ing race, Hawaiian Youth can continue his early strike rate for new trainer Graham

A change of scenery has worked wonders for Brambles Way (3.10), who has won over hurdles and on the Flat since joining Mary

The seven-year-old showed improved form over timber last time and can keep up the good work when he reverts to

Handicap at Southwell.

• Jockey Mark Dwyer was last night awaiting surgery on a badly broken left elbow following a fall on In Good Faith in the first division of yesterday's John Hogg Novice

Hurdle at Kelso.

Dwyer, who injured the arm in a heavy fall at Hexham last Thursday, was taken to the Borders General Hospital at Melrose where a spokes-woman said: "Mr Dwyer is comfortable. He is waiting to go to theatre and has serious

### Newcastle runners and riders with form guide

12:30 LEVY BOARD CONDITIONAL JOCKSTS NAME OF HURBLE See CLUB. 05/13-5 mess chemityArios (17) (D) A hymnus 5-10-3 (PPOS-3 APPEARANCE MODEY (16) F Blurghy 5-15-1 2344PP - DOON RODOX (2275) (D) Men L Sided 6-15-1 RO12-45 TREMERRIM (17) P Modern 7-10-8

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Bettings 7-4 Political Tower 2-1 Regal Rombor, 7-2 Timbuckhor, 6-1 One For The Pot, 29-1 Nobodya Flame
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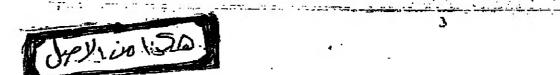
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5 2024-4 STERFEL SAMITS (2-7) R Buckler 11-10-1

6 405-47 COUNTRY KINDERS (1-4) B Ryall 8-10-0

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4 TODGO - KELCORAN BAY (281) J. Majdra 4-10-10
5 1200-6 STAC-POLLANDE (28) K Schoy 6-10-0
TOP FORM 15th Sall by The Stars 10, Ambhadán 8 Blinkered today for the first time: NEWCASTLE 3.00 Royal Surprise. NEWTON ABSOT 12:50 Nuns Locy: 120 Sorrel Hill. SOUTHWELL 11:40 Green Galighity; 12:10 Super Paris; 12:40 Sepresho, Kustom Kit Epres, True Perspective; 2.10 Forget Paris; 2.10 Brambies Way.



#### Soccer

Uefa Cup, third round, second leg Newcastle United (1) v Metz (1)

## **Isaias fights** shy of Batty

S DISAPPEARING Brazilians are currently all the rage in the North-east, it came as little surprise to learn yesterday that Metz's man of that nationality. Isalas, the midfielder who chinned David Batty so elegantly in the first leg a fortnight ago, is rated doubtful for tonight's return at St James' Park.

But it is not a thigh strain or even bruised knuckles that may keep Isaias out; according to his manager Joel Muller, he is "nervous". Maybe it was only after he saw who he had tangled with that Isaias realised the centre-circle of uncertainty that he had wandered into, and the past two weeks have obviously been spent in something of a sweat.

All of which, if you listen to that little Yorkshire pussycat Batty, has been unnecessary. "I am not a player who bears a grudge and I don't bear a grudge against Isaias," the combative midfielder said. "Tve never gone out to hurt anybody on the pitch."

Mark Hughes, for one, will question that statement, and it is precisely because of the elbow at Stamford Bridge nine days ago that the Metz game is Batty's last before Christmas. With Newcastle in a run of five matches without a win, his ban could not have

OTTINGHAM Forest may be forced to sell a key

player after being told that they must pay £2 million they owe to a bank by the end of

There is also likely to be a

tium that includes a business-

man, Lawrie Lewis, and the

shareholders tonight to try to

discover whether there is

enough support for it to con-

tinue its fight against a rival group headed by Sandy An-

derson and Nigel Doughty. But while the fight for con-

trol continues the manager

Frank Clark must wait for a

Blackburn Rovers may wait

promised £3 million

knocked them out of the League Cup, and at home to Arsenal, which removed them from the top of the Premiership, have clearly added a di-mension to the Metz match.

Kevin Keegan is aware of the consequences of a third consecutive defeat but, despite berating his players for their performance against Arsenal, performance against Arsenal, the Newcastle manager looks likely to stick with Saturday's starting II. He was still digesting that display, though: "We need a massive step up tomorrow night. I was pretty low after that game because the one thing I did not have was the thing I've filled the team with: invention and fialr. I couldn't think of a single couldn't think of a single

player who played well."

Keegan then developed this into a fairly harsh assessment of the season to date. "We haven't played that well generally. There have only been two outstanding performances, against Manchester United and Ferencyaros."

One man however, who could scarcely be said to be out of sorts is Alan Shearer, although his most pressing concern is to prevent himself acquiring a reputation as a diver and a whinger.

After the Tony Adams send-ing-off Martin Keown said: "We need protecting from Shearer, not the other way round." Shearer, as ever, res ponded diplomatically. "I don't think he [Adams] should have been sent off in come at a worse time and suddenly they face the prospect of their season imploding.

Seven days ago this was not the case but the defeats at the first place. I thought it should have been offside because Tino [Asprilla] let the ball go through his legs."

until the summer to appoint a

manager if the delay would improve their chances of

landing the Sampdoria coach

Sven Goran Ericsson, who

has six months of his contract

in Italy to run. Northern Ireland have been

instructed by Fifa to plan for

after hearing that the Albani-

ans had been suspended from



## Molby keeps his young Swans afloat

week and 15 minutes of fame

and the great Dane took over. Having been given a free transfer by Liverpool, Molby arrived at The Vetch by way

of loan spells with Barnsley

and Norwich but failed to

keep Swanses up.
"It was a case of survival last season," he said. "This

season we know where we're

Grahame Lloyd meets the manager of the fire at The Vetch began in February; the unknown, untroubled Third Division club before troubled Third Division club before

T WAS the ultimate chairman's vote of confidence, a double whammy of which any political spin-doctor

rould have been proud. First Swansea City were put up for sale as Doug Sharpe tried to extricate him-self from the club he had saved at the eleventh hour nearly 11 years ago. When there were no takers, the chairman informed the player-manager Jan Molby that he and the rest of his staff were on the transfer list. That was two months ago. with the relegated Swans struggling near the foot of the Third Division, and Molby realised that with no money available he had to give the cygnets the chance to keep

author Phil Soar will meet the the international game after the national government interfered with the running of over mid-table Torquay took its football association. them into the division's top Its TOOLDALI ASSOCIATION.
NONTHERN INSELAND SQUAD: Wright
(Raading). Faths (Notingham Forest):
Worthington, McMahabes (both Stoke).
Regas (Alliwath, Gibespie (Newcastie),
Regas (Alliwath, Gibespie (Newcastie),
Reghes, Downe, Rowfead (all Wast
Ham), Lennes, MfE (both Leicoster).
Loenas (Man City), Taggart (Solton),
Hunter (Reading), Grey (Nancy), Norbock
(Swindon), Grifffin (SJ Jahnstone),
Merrow (Arsenal), Nelam (Sheffield
Minorpharket) half. Half the first-team squad is made up of youth players and Molby has come to terms with his chairman's idiosyncratic style. And tonight at Cardiff City's Ninian Park the veteran of several Merseyside

tonight's South Wales derby at Cardiff South Wales local rivalry for the first time.

"I felt we were just one or two players short but the chairman didn't agree," the former Danish international said. "Then he put the club on the market, which I can live with, but when we were all made available for transfer it was the worst possible scenario. What he's done for Swansea you've got to applaud, and if he feels he can't give enough time and money for the club to progress you can't complain, but I should like to hope here complain. like to have been consulted; it was a bit of a shock

"For a while the players were all looking over their shoulders, but it has brought them closer together." Much of the transfer talk Last Saturday's 2-0 win has focused on the centre-for ward Steve Torpey, Swansea's £200,000 bid from Bristol Rovers was rejected recently.

"The chairman didn't think it was the right time to sell him, which was great news because he's worth more than that to me," Molby said. His managerial baptism of

leave for Maine Road. Osman played 15 times for Cardiff last season and like Molby cessful Kevin Cullis, who had succeeded Frank Burrows, has yet to sample a South Wales derby. "We are disappointed that Bobby Smith and Jimmy Rimmer, returned to obscurity in the West Midlands after a

the police have banned away supporters," he said. "Derbies are about big crowds and though this fixture has a his-tory of crowd trouble you can't keep living in the past.
"Tonight's going to be a
mixture of blood and thunder and some good football." Osman's honeymoon ended

abruptly with Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Leyton Orient after three straight wins since his

arely over 22. "It hasn't been plain sailing opening game we then lost the next six; the turning point was a pathetic 2-0 defeat eninst 10 men at Torquay. Saturday's home win means Swansea have lost only two of their past eight games, including an unlucky FA Cup replay defeat at Second Division Bristol City.

A former player-manager at
Ashton Gate, Russell Osman,
has just taken over at Cardin
after Phil Neal's decision to

Osman...honeymoon over

only five points behind them. Investment in youth is paying

going, we've worked twice as hard with the young players and it's starting to pay off because 11 of our 24 profession-



dividends as both clubs are well represented in the Wales Under-21 squad to face Turkey a week on Friday. Osman is still registered but will play only in an emer-

gency, and a niggling groin strain has confined Molby to the dug-out for the past month. The former Liverpool midfielder has been pleasantily surprised by the stan-dard of the Second and Third Divisions. "It wasn't as great a culture shock as I'd been led to believe; you'd be surprised

how many teams try to play." Living in the shadow of an other Antield old boy has be-come an occupational hazard. Under John Toshack, Swansea went from the old Fourth to First Divisions in successive seasons. "The success of those days is weighing us down but the circumstances are completely different," said Molby. "You couldn't get Premiership players here today as Tosh did with

Tommy Smith and Ian Callaghan because their wages are too high. We'll let our young players grow old with us. me of our supporters could live with us not being promoted if we best Cardiff twice, but I couldn't. A draw tonight would be a good

## Rangers down to the bare bones

Patrick Glenn

ANGERS will take a skeleton squad to Auxerre today, quite appropriate really for a club whose task will merely be to pick over the bones of the Champions League Group A tomorrow evening. Brian Landrup, one of the

brox Park club's most formi-dable talents, yesterday joined the other, Paul Gas-coigne, on the list of non-runners. The Dane sustained an ankle injury at Aberdeen on Sunday and will be rested as Rangers make the league championship their priority.

Gascoigne will complete the

third game of his four-match European suspension by missing the series' final match at the Abbé Deschamps stadium in the Burgundy

town 100 miles south of Paris.
With the defender Joachim
Bjorklund and the midfielder
Jorg Albertz ruled out immediately after the Aberdeen match — they have, respec-tively, hamstring and thigh injuries — Rangers will have a makeshift look.

They will also be wearing They will also be wearing an unaccustomed sponsor's logo on their shirts. French law does not permit the advertising of alcohol so Rangers will drop their normal lager brand-name and replace it with Center Parcs, a subsidiary of the brewer which sponsors them. which sponsors them.

If Rangers are in a state,

however, their opponents are not much better prepared. Guy Rour, the veteran coach who has transformed a town team into champions during a 35-year reign, left Aberdeen ately after Sunday's match to catch up on his own troubles. The defender Taribo West

is suspended and Roux will also be without the strikers Bernard Diomede and Thomas Dienaud -- the latter scored both goals in Aux-erre's 2-1 victory at Ihrox in September — as well as the goalkeeper Lionel Charbon-nier and midfielder Christian Herma. There are also doubts about their captain, the influ-ential midfielder Sabri Lamouchi, and one of his part-ners, Moussa Saib.

Roux was impressed with Rangers' system rather than their individuality - Laudrup excepted — during the 3-0 victory at Pittodrie. "Whatever personnel char they have, their set-up won't change," he said yesterday. They defend very well and break quickly and in numbers into attack.

Cricket

Rus

inE

Whatever news the old for hears of his own players, his most encouraging bulletin yesterday was the one revealing Laudrup's absence.

#### Squash

Peter White

#### **Unlucky Walker disqualified** as Hill faces another ban

Forest may be forced to sell

as bank demands £2 million

There is also likely to be a further delay in raising money at the City Ground as the battle for control of the contacted world soccer's gov-

Richard Jago in Bombay

ANTHONY HILL, not long back from a four-month suspension for his on-court behaviour, faces the likeli-bood of another ban after storming out of a remarkable opening day of the Mahindra nternational which also saw England's No. 4 seed Chris Walker disqualified.

The unfortunate Walker arrived late after miscalculating the likely time of his match, which was brought forward by the walk-out from Hill. The volatile Australian had been incensed by the de-cision of the New Zealand referee Gavin Whyte to award a penalty point against him for slinging his racket across the court when surprisingly he went two games down to the Egyptian Amir Wagih.

"Aren't you even going to give me a warning?" yelled Hill, but Whyte, perhaps in-fluenced by the No. 8 seed's behaviour in the previous game, was adamant. Hill had slammed the ball

against the glass wall adjacent to the officials and glared at them. Previously he had belo the officials and glared at the previously he had believed "Shit, shit, shit, it's impossible to play squash here" apparently upset that time of the officials and glared at the previously he had believed "Shit, shit, it's impossible to play squash here" against the Egyptian No. 4 Omar El Borolossy. lowed "Shit, shit, shit, it's im-possible to play squash here"

by the court's slightly meandering side wall.
In the end Hill supplied actions to match his words giving an up-yours gesture with the racket to the official, shaking hands with Wagih and strutting out.

Hill may be departing the game for a while, because the Professional Squash Association also has to consider his tion also has to consider his controversial match with Pakistan's Zubair Jahan in last month's World Open. It was Hill's behaviour when playing another Pakistani, Mir Zaman Gul, in last season's world team championships that had him sidelined for that had him sidelined for four months this year.
Zubair's brother Zarak

Jahan prospered at Walker's late arrival Attempts were made to persuade the Paki-stani not to enforce the walkover but he refused, and Walker faces an automatic £100 fine from the PSA as well as his loss of earnings from a tournament, with \$105,000 (£65,000) prize-money, which is the richest outside the

World Open. Brett Martin, the No. 3 seed,

Results

Soccer

SOCCET

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATIONS
League Copa C Palace 2, Wimbledon 3,
FA TROPHY's First-resid draws Morthera sections Carceley Pars v Altrincham;
Morecamble v Chorley, Workington v
Bambor Bridge; Colvyn Bay v Worksop Tri
or Lancaster C: Gansborough Trially v
Bradford Pi Ave or Barrow; Knowsley Ltd
or Emley v Boston Ltd; Spennymor Utd v
Brahop Auckland, Northwich Vic v Hednesford Tn. Blyth Spenians v Busdon or
Grantham Tri: Southport v Halesowen Tn:
Hyde Utd v Bedworth Utd: Gutseley v Telford Utd: KxCderminster Harmera v MacJestiedd Tn: Galeshead v Runcom: Ashbon
Utd v Moor Greon, Stulybridge Cettic v

Utd v Moor Greon, Stulybridge Cettic v

BUROPEAN TEAM C'SNIP (Marbella): First-rousd leaders (best two scores count) 139 Scotland (J Chilles 68, 77scores 71, C Rengid 72), 144 Voland (D McGrane 71, D Moorey 74, B McGovern 70, 143 Englant IM Dack 75, J Firey 73, C Smettle 70), Denmark, 144 baly, Finignd, 148

Basketball Malas Golden State 98, Portland 70; Detroit 95, Secramento 55; Secrale 90, Utah 96; LA Lakers 104, Denver 98, Shamsillenger Bestern Candersmoon Affanillen 1, Afarm (1972, L4, Pct. 750 GSG); 2, Oriendo (8-4-957-2); 3, New York (9-5-6-8-2); 4, Washington (7-6-457-45); 5, Philadelphia (7-6-457-45); 6, Boston (4-10-285-7); 7, New York 19-5-8-8-8; 6, Ecolon (4-10-285-7); 7, New York 19-5-8-9; 5, Allantin (8-7-653-6); 6, Mitwauke (6-7-553-6); 7, Irodam (8-8-385-6); 8, Toronto (4-10-285-10); Western Conference Statement (9-5-7-553-6); 9, Toronto (4-10-285-10); Western Conference Statement (975, L1)

American Football

kee (6-7-.533-58; 7, Indiana (5-6-355-58);
8. Toromo (4-10-.266-10) Western Conference Statement 1, Houston (W15, L),
PCL313, 650; 2, Usat (13-2-.567-2); 3, Minnesots (7-6-457-72); 4, Denver (6-12-.294-105); 5, Dalias (4-10-.265-10); 6, Sen Antono (2-13-.533-12); 7, Vancouver (2-15-116-135), Prestitc 1, Seattle (W14, L-7176, G50); 2, LA Listers (12-6-.667-2); 3, Portland (10-7-.588-36); 4, LA Clippers (8-10-.375-7); 5, Golden State (6-11-.313-9); 6, Sacramento (6-12-.294-50); 7, Phoenix (1-4-.067-7);

Gricket

Britaner Victoria 182 (Bichel 5-48) and 277

IW Ayres B5, B Hodge B1, Sichel 5-49, and 277

IW Ayres B5, B Hodge B1, Sichel 5-49, and 137-4

Cueensiand 305 (A Symonds 77) and 137-4 (M Heyden Tanb). Cueensiand won by eight wickets. Asidemisiae South Australia 277 and 325 (J Brayshaw 98, G Parker 99). Western Australia 378 (J Langer 18, D Martyn 98, and 288-5 (T Moody 88no). Western Australia 378 (J Langer 18, D Martyn 98, and 288-5 (T Moody 88no). Western Australia won by five wickets. Hobseta New South Wales 403-9 dec (B McNamara 137no) and 225-3 dec (S Lee 101no, K Roberts 54), Tasmania 327-8 dec (S Yrung 168no, M XVentor 50) and 288-9 (D Boon 77, J Cox 67). Match drawn.

Squash MAHINDRA INTERNATIONAL (Box MAHINDHA INTERNATIONAL (Somboy): First reased Selections D Warris (Str.) bt G Ryding (Can) 12-15, 15-8, 15-13, 15-3, 15-13, 15-3, 15-13, 15-2, 17-2 D Rysen (Ire) bt D Jenson (Aus) 15-10, 15-2, 15-11; 2 Penice (Eng) bt A Behl (Intell) 15-8, 15-4, 15-9, 25-28, Jahlen (Pal) bt C Walker (Eng) bt A Grant (Intell) 15-14, 9-15, 15-8, 12-15, 15-11; 3 Manata (Eng) bt J Bonata (Ir) 15-11; 3 Manata (Eng) bt J Bonata (Ir) 15-11, 15-2, 15-2, P Micel (Scott) bt Meant (Scott) 5-9, 15-9, 15-10.

ice Hockey SCO HOCKEY
SUPERLEAGUES Bracknell 7, Cartist 6;
Steffield 4, Ayr 4 (ed., Standinger 1, Cartist 6;
P13, PS229; 2, Newcastle (19-25); 3,
Shettleid (10-24); 4, Ayr (17-10); 5, Sealingstoke (18-16); 8, Manchester (17-13); 7,
Notilingham (17-13); 8, Bracknell (17-11),
PRESSER LEAGUES Guidderd 5, Solitati
7, Kingston 3, Swindon 5; Petarborough 8,
Medvey 6; Taltird 4, Slough 8,
NORTHIBEST PRESSER LEAGUES Stackburn 3, Paisley 8, Murrayfold 1, Pite 8;
Whitsey 9, Castlereagh 4,
NINTE Destroit 2, Rorids 4, NY Rengers 6,
Montreal 2; Pitidantish 4, Vancouver 3;
ST Louis 3, San Jose 4, Anthelm 4, Edmonton 2, Standinger Eastern Confergence Morthelest 1, Suffiel (W18, L11, T),
GF1, (ASR), Ph.27); 2, Hartford (11-7-5-6670-27); 3, Montreal (10-13-4-93-99-24); 4,
Roston (8-10-4-63-77-22); 5, Unava (7-10850-98-20), 6, Pitinburg (8-13-27-3-5-16),
Althousier 1, Floride (W16, L3, T8, GF7),
ARABIST, 1, Floride (W16, L3, T8, GF7),
ARABIST, 1, Horide (W1

New Jersey (12-10-1-57-60-25); 5, NY Rangers (10-13-4-90-80-24); 8, NY Islanders (6-10-8-80-67-20); 7, Tampe Bay (7-14-2-65-77-15). Western Cenference Centerators Castrata 1. Deltas (W16. L8, T1, GF73, GASS, Ptx33); 2. Defroit (14-63-77-81-51); 3, Chicago (12-12-5-71-67-27); 4, St Louis (13-13-13-78-26); 5, Phoenix (8-12-4-57-70-20); Pecifier 1, Colorado (W16, L8, T4, GF96, GAS5, Ptx36); 2, Edmonton (13-13-48-68-27); 3, Vencouver (13-11-0-75-75-26); 4, Los Angeles (16-12-45-7-90-23); 5, Calgary (10-14-2-53-72-22); 6, San Jene (9-13-467-80-22); 7, Anahelm (6-14-4-70-98-20).

Fixtures

Newcastie (1) v FC Metz (1) (8.0).

FA CARLING PRESIDENTISESSEE Middles
brough v Lelcuster (7.45).

MAXTROSETIDE LEAGURE First Division
Birminghem v Barnsley (7.45); Reeding
Tranmers (7.45); Shell Uni v Hudderstiel
(7.45); Second Divisions Backpool
Plymouth: Brantlord v Notts Co (7.45)
Bristol C v Walbord (7.45); Backpool
Phymouth: Brantlord v Notts Co (7.45)
Bristol C v Walbord (7.45); Chesterfield v Peterborough (7.45); Shrewbury v
Crewe (7.45); Luton v York (7.45); Rotherham v Stockport (7.45); Shrewbury v
Coursemouth; Walsell v Bristol Rvrs
(7.45); Wycombe v Milliwall (7.46); Brighton v Darlington (7.45); Cambridge Uzi v
Mansfield (7.45); Cardiff v Swanses: Chester v Fulham; Exeter v Hareford (7.45); Lincoln v Carlisle; Northempton v Hull (7.45);
Scartborough v Coichseker; Seuritropp v
Hartispool: Torquay v Rochdale (7.45);
Wigan v Doncaster (7.45);

Wigan v Doncaster (7.45);

EELIZ'S GOOTTISSE LEGALIES. Scarboraugh v Colcheater, Scarbhorpe v Rochdate (7.45); Wigan v Doncaster (7.45); Wigan v Doncaster (7.45); Wigan v Doncaster (7.45); BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUES Pression: Divisions Dundernyline v Cette (8.0); SCOTTISH LEAGUES Press Divisions Clyde v Strawser. Table Divisions Allos v Albor; Cowdeniest V Forty.

Chaffenge Cape Second rounds Spenings Chaffenge Cape Second rounds Spenings Cape Second rounds Spenings Cape Second rounds Spenings Cape Second rounds Spenings Cape Second From Spenings Cape Spening

Rugby Union Neath. CLUB MATCH: Newbury v The Army. **Athletics** 

Channel 4 signs four-year deal with BAF

two weeks ago.

The four-year contract, which will begin next February with coverage of the indoor Grand Prix event in Birmingham, ends the British Athletic Federation's search for a replacement for PTV, which declined to take up a two-year option at the end of its current contract after becoming disillu-

stoned with the sport.

Though Channel 4 is paying a lot less than ITV's 23 million-a-year, athletics will now continue on terrestrial television. And as it is a commercial channel, sponsors will still have the opportunity to advertise at the events, making it easier for the BAF to sell the

sport.
"This is excellent news."
said Roger Black, who represented the newly formed
British Athletes' Association in the negotiations. "I have been very impressed with Channel 4's approach to other major sports. They will bring favourable scheduling, increased hours of coverage and promotional support." The announcement is another major boost for the fi-

nancially troubled BAF, coming two weeks after it agreed a £4 million kit deal with Reebok. "This gives us the basis to secure a strong commercial foundation for athletics which will take us into the next millennium," said Peter Radford, the BAF's executive chairman.

• Kenya's Daniel Komen, the world 3,000 metres re-cord holder, heads a strong cord holder, heads a strong field for the Buna County Durham International Cross Country race on De-

Rugby League

### Leeds shun Christmas spirit to challenge Halifax

Paul Fitzpatrick

HE players of Leeds Rhinos and Halifax Blue Sox will be expected to put BRITISH ATHLETICS
Cox will be expected to put their Christmas celebrations on hold for 24 hours in order to contest a £10,000 winners take-all challenge match at Headingley on the morning of Boxing Day. The money, appropriately enough, is being put up by Carisberg-Telley, Leeds's main sponsor.

The match will allow Leeds to give an airing to their recent signings Richie Black-more, the New Zealand Test centre, and Paul Sterling, the former Hull winger. The kick-off is at 11.20

former Holl winger. The Rickoff is at 11.30.
Wigan and St Helens will
face each other later that day
at Central Park, with the
return scheduled for Knowsley Road on New Year's Day.
Paul Cullen, the 33-year-old
Waynington, Walves, Cantain Warrington Wolves captain and the longest-serving player in the top flight, has signed a new one-year contract with the club after rejecting their original offer. Salford Reds were keen to

Warrington have now prom-ised him a job once his playnsed mm a po once his paying days are over. "It will be a
coaching or commercial
role," he said, "but I will keep
my options open, and could
carry on playing. Warrington
would not release me on a free transfer and that scuppered any deal."
One player likely to leave Warrington, however, is Chris Rudd, the 26-year-old

goal-kicking centre, who has

sign Cullen, who has been at Wilderspool for 16 years, but

rejected new terms and been Bradford Bulls are horing to sign Whetu Taewe, the 26-year-old New Zealand and North Queensland Cowboys back. But the acceptance of his registration may depend on clubs being allowed to sign six overseas players rather than five, a change expected to be sanctioned at a council

meeting tomorrow.

A record entry of 72 teams will go into the draw for the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup tonight. Super League clubs enter the compe-tition at the fourth round.

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Days in the sun . . . knur-and-spell, also known as pitman's golf, was a colliery favourite (above). Other exhibition highlights incinde a rare picture of Billy Batten, whose wages caused a rugby league sensation in 1913, and (below) bare knuckle fighting which survived until nationalisation in 1945 PHOTOGRAPHS: DON MATHEE

# From the pits to the pinnacle

Local prizefighters or Test cricketers, England's coalmines have always nurtured sportsmen. Martin Wainwright savours Work Hard, Play Hard, an exhibition celebrating the age-old link

HE minister said you whistled down a minence said you shouted "Hey George!" — whereas the local Labour MP thought that whichever you did, it would have brought up a rugby league prop forward rather than a fast bowler. But whatever the technical

detail of recruiting mind and muscle from pit to pitch, there was startling, all-party agreement yesterday on a secret ingredient to make beaters once again.
The answer, the great and

good agreed at the National Coalmining Museum in Wakefield, lay underneath their feet, in the seams below Work Hard, Play Hard — Britain's first exhibition on min-

"Yes, coalmining wasn't often," said David Hinchliffe, just at the heart of Britain's Wakefield's Labour MP. "But economic greatness," said the Minister for Sport Iain Sproat. "Just look what it did for our football, rugby. cricket, even snooker. Those were the days of Britain ver-sus The Rest of the World fix-tures, and it wasn't the Rest of the World who used to win."

panel on coal and soccer: two miners who played for Man-chester United in 1958 and were caught in the Munich air disaster. Tommy Taylor (killed) and Bill Foulkes (survived) smiled over his shoulder at other displays on mining heroes of cricket, rugby league and boxing — as well as pigeon-racing, nipsy, and knur-and-spell.

"I don't want to find myself

a bat and then whacked a second time as far as the nipsy-hitter could manage. Reared on this, miners I agree with everything Iain has said." Sir Laurence Bywould dominate local team games; a Rotherham United fixture card from the late Forties shows eight miners in ford, chairman of Yorkshire cricket club, then weighed in with his conviction that the first team, six in the miners had saved the county's bacon time and again.

mining community," he said.
The exhibition, which will tour the country next year, has scoured club pavilions, score-books and retired miners' attics for mementoes of similar gritty times. Displays include a chilling account of the way that bare-knuckle fighting evaded the law between 1750, when it was banned because of disorderly betting at bouts, and the nationalisation of coal in 1945 which brought in a highly structured amateur

Sport was part of life in a

coalfield speciality, along wardrobe of Johnny Wardle, with nipsy, a skilful street-game involving an egg-shaped piece of wood, balanced on a brick, flicked into the air with 6am-2.30pm hours fitted betwho left Wath Grammar School for a fitter's job at Hickleton Main because the 6am-230pm hours fitted bet-ter with fixtures than the nine-to-five white-collar life in the pit offices. The exhibition, which in-

cludes have-a-go displays of quoits, hopscotch and knor-and-spell (or pitman's golf), also carries reminders of reserves and another eight in the third XL Billy Batten caused a national ensation when Hull paid him "The tradition continues," said Richard Budge, head of the private RJB Mining com-£14 a match in 1913 after paying a world-record rugby pany which has taken on most of the British Coal pits, buy him from Hunslet.

Poignantly, the exhibition also honours the sacrifice of miners' pigeons enlisted as military messengers in the producing figures to match the great players of the past like Harold Larwood (a ponyfirst world war; more than 16,000 were taken to France and only 1,900 came back.

• Work Hard, Play Hard,
National Coalmining Museum for England, Caphouse Col-liery, New Road, Overton, Wakefield, 01324 848806. Now Along with the minister, he paused to look at the York-shire and England caps, blazer and virtually complete



## Russell sacrificed again in England balancing act Taylor takes low risk Back to Adam

Daniel Roberts in Harare

HE die is cast and, for the two Test matches in Zimbabwe at least, Alec Stewart will keep wicket and England will play five specialist bowlers. This means Jack Russell so often sacrificed be-cause of the inadequacies of others, will once again be a fringe figure.
It is precisely one year

since Russell broke the world Test record with 11 catches against South Africa in Johannesburg and then kept Mike Atherton company for 276 minutes during their herolc rearguard operation. This decision, however logi-cal, is terribly tough on him and he will be distraught. England have not officially

announced their side for the Tests, of course, but unoffi-cially they have. It is the 1! names chosen to play ogning: Mashonaland today in the opening first-class match of the tour. The coach David Lloyd admitted as much when he said: "We've shown our hand: Stewart keeping wicket spinners is our intended policy for the Test matches." Even though Stewart him- ity. Dropping Russell was the

team. England can accommo date a more varied and balanced attack.

Lloyd added: "The key is a cutting edge to our attack. I don't want bowlers just putting the ball in the right spot.
I want them bowling it there. Jack has done nothing wrong but the team's balance is important.
"Alec will bat at No. 3, with

Nick Knight opening with Atherton and the rest dropped down one place in the order. This causes the least disruption possible; it is messy to have Alec opening No. 6 in the next."

Lloyd has been unhappy about what he sees as a lac of cooperation from the Zim habwe Cricket Union, None of turned up and it was only yes-terday, during an unsched-uled extra session, that England used the best practice facilities in town at the

Harare Sports Club. Lloyd had to demand this, and there are signs that he is beginning to assert his author-

self would prefer to concentrate on his batting, there is (badly blistered left foot) and sense in the selection. By removing Russell from the throat virus) have been told in no uncertain terms that they are playing against Mashona-land no matter how uncom-

fortable they feel. The bowlers are England's principal concern. The best of them, Dominic Cork, will not appear until after Christmas ind most of the rest are afflicted in various ways. The ns of Gough and Caddick are physical, Silverwood's are more mental; be suffered appalling nerves dur-ing the curtailed match on Saturday, his first for England, and knows he must eliminate such stage fright to have any chance of playing a

significant role on tour. Tufnell was struck for four sixes during the embarrass-ing defeat by the President's XI on Sunday and generally struggled for control. Irani has pitched too short and, with five specialist bowlers now the plan, he has been discounted from the all-round-er's berth. Only Mullally and Croft have discovered any-thing like their best form.

THAM: "Atherton, Knight, †Stewart, Hussain, Thorpu, Crawley, Croft, Gough, Caddick, Mullally, Tufnell

Australia v West Indies: second Test, fourth day

Miles Selvey in Sydney

and co-sponsored Work Hard,

Play Hard. "We hope we're

lad at Annesly pit] or Fred

Trueman [an underground haulage hand at Maltby

T MAY be luck or it may be intuition, but Mark Taylor has the knack when it comes to the surprise bowling change. In Brisbane he had turned not to a front-line bowler but to Ricky Ponting to complete the over for the in-jured Steve Waugh; it brought Jimmy Adams's wicket. In the first innings here it was Greg Blewett's huge inswinger which dispatched Sherwin Campbell when the likelier lads had failed to do so.

Australia's captain reached into the box of tricks once more yesterday evening to canny effect, producing not Michael Kasprowicz or Jason. Gillespie as Glenn McGrath's new-ball partner, nor even Shane Warne, a move which would have been regarded as progressive. Instead Mark Waugh removed his hat and shades and sent down some overs of slow but significantly well-spun off-breaks.

This was a clever tactic, even though Campbell and Robert Samuels were not un-duly fazed and for once the nagic did not work. This soporific pitch has not been one on which to hiast out opposition, but as Waugh showed, and in the final couple of overs of the day Warne too, it was turning. Moreover the ball, only a dozen overs old, was already roughed up to the texture of an old pair of workboots, and McGrath is a young bowler increasingly familiar with the intricacies of reverse swing.

Only two wickets fell on the fourth day of this match, although a nasty injury to Matthew Elliott meant that he retired hurt only 22 short of a maiden Test century and will take no further part; he needs immediate knee surgery.

Australia for the most part

batted in restrained manner, not helped by the pace of the pitch, adding only 157 before tea for the loss of Waugh, who made 67. But Michael Bevan (52) and Blewett (47 not out) forced the pace with a fourth-wicket stand of 65 in 12 overs, and then Blewett with lan Healy (22 not out, and 272 in the series for once out) produced a rapid 38 before Taylor pulled the plug at 312 for four. Test match declarations, particularly when a team has lead in a series, are almost always timed to ensure that there can be only one winner. | Elliott retires hurt

Scoreboard

match with disbelief at times, but yesterday they were al-most apoplectic as Walsh's men produced arguably West indies' shoddiest performance in the field in living memory.

In asking West Indies to make 340 to win in a minimum of 102 overs, albeit the highest score of the match, Taylor might have appeared generous, par-ticularly with the potential Lara factor. This, though, has not been a pitch for rapid scorno Test side batting in the fourth innings on the Sydney Cricket Ground has ever made

more than 276 to win. Campbell and Samuels had reduced the deficit by 27 at stumps and were relieved to have seen out the day, not least because they had restored some credibility, not



Painful end ... Matthew

| **Tour match:** ACT v England A

Andy Wilson in Carberra to say sanity, to the West Indies performance.

Proud men, pillars of the

side through the glory years, have been watching this

Misfields became the norm,

with Kenny Benjamin and

Curty Ambrose particularly culpable; pushed singles slipped between legs and were turned into threes, and easy

twos to the perimeter became fours. Waugh, when 15, was dropped by a combination of Browne and Lara, the wicket-

keeper starting out for the catch off Benjamin before selling first slip a very late

dummy; and Carl Hooper, the

safest copper since Dixon patrolled Dock Green, missed a caught-and-bowled offered by

However, yesterday should have belonged to Elliott, who was given a truly flery baptism in Brisbane but has begun to look the part. The left-hander is a tall lad with a futting Brice Forsyth jay that

lutting Bruce Forsyth jaw that

might require a chin-strap ex-tension on his helmet, and his

game is hased on the front foot. But he cuts with power

when given width and pulls

venomously, as Ambrose and Benjamin found to their cost

resterday. He appears not to

be bothered by reputation. He had been 45 not out over

night and had taken the best part of an hour to reach his half-century. But it had been

a trouble-free effort and

remained so for the rest of his

four-hour innings until he

turned Hooper's off-break to

midwicket. He and Waugh completed a single and were

running a second when, with

both batsmen watching Walsh fielding, Waugh sud-

denly veered across the pitch

Farce and disaster were

rolled into one: Walsh's return to Hooper meant the bowler had only to turn and remove the balls to run out

Waugh, who was yards out. Instead he threw to Browne

as Elliott dived for the crease

just beating the throw. But in the collision Elliott had torn a

cartilage and, after a delay while the third umpire adju-

dicated on the run-out appeal, he was helped from the field

in the drinks cart while

Waugh survived.

and collided with his partner.

Blewett shortly before tea.

HE day did not start well for Adam Holli-oake. England A's capain lofted the first ball, a lo hop, straight down long-leg's throat. Yet it was Hollioake's late intervention with the ball Capital Territory captain Mike Veletta to enter the referee's notebook, and lifted England's hopes of a sixth consecutive victory after sev-

eral hours of frustration. He brought himself on half an hour before the close with Veletta and Bruce Hara re-pairing the damage done by two quick wickets for Peter Such that had taken his match tally to seven. At 137 for two, ACT were only 55 runs behind,

and their hopes of salvaging a draw very much alive. Then Veletta, who had bat-ted beautifully for 63, edged a ball low towards first slip. Craig White flicked it up and Warren Hegg claimed the catch. Veletia was given out but stood his ground for several seconds before exchanging choice words with the umpires and throwing his bat to the ground on the way to the pavilion. The 33-year-old former Test player has been reported to the match referee but his previous exemplary disciplinary record may save him from serious punishment.

Hollioake struck a second

of the day, when he won an lbw appeal against Hara. Again the batsman looked far from impressed, but this shout, from an inswinging yorker, looked a good one. England did well to extend their overnight total of 295 for five to 408, especially after Hollioake's early departure. But Veletta then put on 106 for the first wicket with Paul Evans, first seeing off the new ball and then attacking Such after his remarkable economy in the first innings. But Such's away-drift accounted Solway Caught at short-leg.
ACT: First lonings 216 (P J Solway 98;
SNC4.6-89) APPEND Handings (overnight: 295-5)
'A J Holloste c Thornton b Smith ... 31

crucial and controversial

blow in his next over, the last

Total (122 overs) 408
Pail of winkets costs 255, 358, 352, 373
Bowllegs Smith 27-5-91-8: Thorstor
26-8-77-2: McDansid 18-3-72-2
O'Meagher 25-7-68-0. Meckenzit
22-4-80-1; Garnty 4-1-11-0. 

## Team talk The independent news and reports service

0891 33 77+ Aston Villa Leads United 03 Siveffield Wed. 14 Birm. City Leicester City Southhampton 20 21 Man. City Sunderland Brentford Man, United Burnley Middlesbrough Coverity City **Derby County** 28 Norwich City 18 Celtic

The Guardian CINTERACTIVE

the same in the same of the sa

المكالمن الرجل



Ice Hockey

### Under-strength Steelers' chance to peak

Vic Batchelder

HE Sheffield Steelers THE Sheffield Steelers tonight get the chance to go top of the Superleague

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That victory and Sunday's home the with Ayr, achieved despite a heavy inury list, followed Thursday's -2 overtime win at Newcastle. I'd have been happy with five out of six [points]; getting towards the end of it I wanted all six," said the Steelers manager Alex Dampler. "But

ing to fill in right now."

when they entertain the Not- ( to the DEE for a work permit tingham Panthers only three for the 30-year-old Car days after defeating them 4-1 in Nottingham.

knee injury can be any length of time," said Dampier. 'Going into Sunday's game if we win the return with Not-tingham, that'll be a real

Sheffield last week applied | ing Group A.

morale lifter for the guys hav-The absentees include the ex-NHL forward Ken Priestlay, who sustained a knee lig-ament injury two weeks ago, and Jamie Van der Horst, Nicky Chinn and Steve Nemeth, all on the long-term in-

Jason Lafreniere, who has played more than 150 NHL games for New 1015 Quebec and Tampa Bay. "We just don't know how "We just don't know how

"We're boping Christmas but Kenny could be longer." Dampier was also delighted that the Cardiff Devils, cur-rently top, followed Saturday's home defeat by Ayr with a 7-5 defeat at Bracknell, leaving Sheffield only a point behind the Devils and Newcastle with three games in hand on each. Great Britain's coach Peter Woods yesterday named an unchanged squad of 30—to be trimmed to 22—to face the Netherlands in Heerenveen on Thursday week, their penulti-

mate game of Olympic qualify-

All set for the Munich cashfest, page 13 Jan Molby and the Welsh dimension, page 14

Russell discarded by England again, page 15 Rangers suffer withdrawal symptoms, page 14

# portsGuardian

#### SOCCER

## Emerson in Brazil and Boro back in crisis

Michael Walker

HE saga of Emerson's future with Middles-brough took another twist yesterday when it emerged that the midfielder will miss tonight's Premiership visit of Leicester because he is back in Brazil.

The reason is again his 21-year-old wife, who is reluctant to settle in Mid-dlesbrough. Last week Em-erson admitted in an interview with the Guardian that she was unhappy but, dismissing all speculation about his future as a mixture of press speculation and misunderstanding, he said he expected her to return to England on

However, sources close to the player said he received a telephone call on Friday to say she did not want to leave Brazil.

Emerson was due to make his return from a threematch suspension at the Riverside stadium tonight in a game for which Mid-dlesbrough have seven players injured, including Juninho. However, instead of naming him on the team sheet yesterday, Bryan Robson was again forced to talk about the Brazilian's fature.

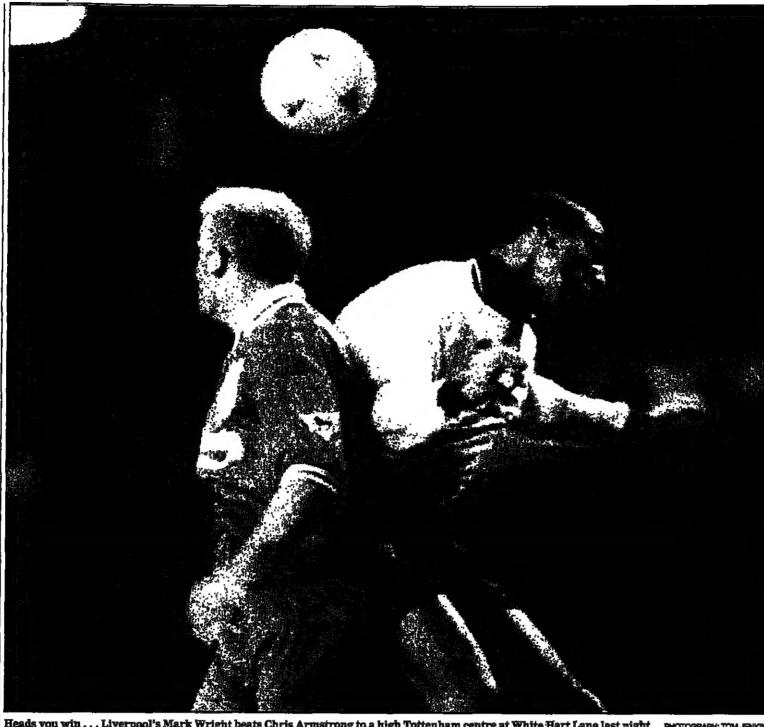
There are only two ways plays for us or he's back on a beach in Brazil," said the manager. "He signed a four-year contract here and he's not for sale."

Later Robson added: "His wife is over there and he was given permission to go probably be back tomorrow and then we can sit down and talk about the problems. We will try in every way to make his wife con tent here. We will help in every way we can, but that's as far as we can go.

Emerson had seemed hopeful that the furore would die down and that Middlesbrough would sign his cousin Fabinho, formerly of the Portuguese side Belenenses. Fabinho has trained with Boro for 10 days and is married to

Emerson's wife's sister. The club thought such a move would be helpful to must be considering how can drag on.

Meanwhile, Robson admitted that Middlesbrough bave bid for Nadal, Barcelona's £3 million defender. There is a deadline in Spain for signing players of December 7, though, so unless Barcelona get someone in very quickly then it could be difficult for us," he said.
"We have put in a bid. Barcelona heren" a speciated it but we are continuing to



Heads you win . . . Liverpool's Mark Wright beats Chris Armstrong to a high Tottenham centre at White Hart Lane last night PROTOGRAPH: TOM JENIONS

**Premiership:** Tottenham Hotspur 0. Liverpool 2

# No respite for Spurs

OTTENHAM responded spiritedly last night to the Bolton debacle but were undone by a Liverpool side who moved level on points with the lead-ers Arsenal. A slick finish by Michael Thomas, recalling the verve of his days elsewhere in north London, was followed by a freak goal by Steve McManaman.

Gerry Francis, who had spent Saturday at home with a temperature of more than 100F, was even notter under the collar yesterday after talk of a confrontation with his captain Teddy Sheringham after the Bolton game and rumours that the England striker was on the verge of leaving Spurs. "Complete and utter rubbish," was the man-

ager's angry response. The one predictable absentee from his ranks was the luckless Darren Anderton,

Iversen had signed from Ro-senborg for £2.7m. The 20-year-old Norwegian striker will join on Thursday, subject

to a medical The crowd soon conveyed their hunger and Spurs res-ponded eagerly. They forced the early pace but Liverpool made the first dangerous break when McManaman sprinted on to a deflected Nielsen pass. Sinton uncere-moniously brought him down

White Hart Lane held its breath as Berger, playing just behind Fowler, took the free-kick and unleashed a 25-yard shot that Walker dived to his

right to save.

The pattern was repeated seven minutes later but this time deep in Liverpool terri-tory. McManaman committed a vengeful trip on Sinton, and the winger responded by curl-ing in a free-kick that was pool goalkeeper was grateful when a deflection diverted it into his hands.

The opening had promised much more than the untidy stalemate into which the game then descended. There was abundant movement and a host of good intentions, but until the final seconds of the

Two back-headers by Armstrong gave Spurs encourage-ment. The first flew just over the bar, and the inrushing sheringham just failed to con-nect with the second from close range. Then Ruddock, deep in his penalty area, dal-lied over a clearance and had to lash the ball wildly towards Fox. The winger's cross was met smartly by Sheringham,

whose low shot flew wide. Deeper disappointment was atched in Spurs' faces at the interval. Seconds before the

down this time with suspected knee-ligament trouble. James. Armstrong centred timed his run perfectly to slip side-footed wide of Walker's from the right and the Liverannouncement that Steffen pool goalkeeper was grateful Howells and fire a low drive that McManaman wastefully side-footed wide of Walker's left hand post.

unerringly past Walker's right hand into the far corner. Muted booing accompanied the Spurs players off the pitch and the limping Armstrong did not return, Allen taking his place. Three minutes later, a deep insult was added to this injury when McMana-man turned Carr and sent in a speculative shot from 25

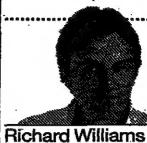
Walker sprang to his right in anticipation, only to see the ball strike a divot just in front of him and bounce over his upstretched hands. The Tottenham goalkeeper per-mitted himself a rueful smile before checking the big creen to convince himself he

bizarre manner. Liverpool could have added a third goal midway through the second half when Berger interval. Seconds before the sprinted down the left and de-break, an angled pass from livered a precise low cross

To compound Spurs' de-pression, a seemingly legiti-mate back-header by Sol Campbell, who beat James to the ball in the 67th minute, was disallowed for shoving.

Set by Crispa

## The first and proper voice of motor racing



N COMMON with other organisers, the Automo-bile Club von Deutsch-land decided to reduce the German Grand Prix from its former powerful position down to a 'milk-and-water' type of event by reducing the distance from 22 laps of the Nürburgring to 15 laps, a mere 342 kilometres . . ."

Those words were the first motor racing journalism I ever read. The man who wrote them, almost 40 years ago, thought that a race lasting two hours and 20 minutes, over a 14-mile circuit featuring 175 corners lined with trees and ditches, contested by men in fibreglass helmets, stringbacked gloves and cotton polo shirts, in cars without seatbelts, roll-over bars or fire extinguishers, could reasonabl be described as "a milk-andwater type of event".

His name was Denis Jenkin-son, and he was the doyen of British motor racing writers His death at 75 was approunced by my colleague Alan Henry on yesterday's obituaries page Naturally enough, Henry and other memorialists concentrated on Jenkinson's most celebrated single achievement which was to navigate for Stir-ling Moss during a famous victory in the 1955 Mille Miglia. when they averaged 97mph for more than 10 hours over public roads from Brescia to Rome

others, Jenkinson's contribution was far more profound. Over a period of years his writing implanted a set of be-liefs that together defined what constituted a motor race and what it took to be a proper racing driver. As the Continental corre

spondent of Motor Sport, he spent the summer driving from one race to another, from the great temples of Monza, Monaco, Rheims, Spa and the Nürburgring to lesser meet-ings at Syracuse, Bordeaux, Bari and Naples. In those days there was little print or TV coverage of grand prix racing and Jenkinson's lengthy, close set reports, published weeks after the event, repre-sented the authorised version

pose he was a bit of an anorak. There are many photographs

of his diminutive, bearded figure bending over Ferraris and Maseratis, logging chassis numbers or spotting tiny mod-ifications. He would be the

gine, and he could tell his readers the exact angle at which Colin Chapman canted the engine of the Lotus 16. He loved and understood good engineering, and he thought the men who designed the cars were just about as important as the

first to notice when BRM moved their oil cooler from the left to the right of the en-

giory boys who drove them. But he was also, in his flinty way, a romantic, and the tech nical exegesis always came after the report of the race. He never hid his admiration for the courage and skill of the best pilots, to the extent that his 1958 book The Racing Driver still represents the most sus-tained and thoughtful analysis of the craft, with conclusions which hold good in today's

very different conditions. He was interested in finding out what made a racing driver different from you or me, and he realised that the proportion of those qualities might vary between individuals of comparable achievements. His deacriptions of watching a great driver lift a team's morale with a single brilliant practice lap provided a humanising view of the sport.

Along with enthusias came prejudices. As the product of a generation that had lived through a bloody war, be despised the cam-paigns of Jackie Stewart and others to introduce safety precautions. He liked tracks with natural hazards; manhole covers, kerbs, tramlines. He wanted Stewart to prove him-self against the same tests that Fanglo had faced, which was an unrealistic expectation in a changing world. Yet he was tal. In his eyes, Ayrton Senna was the equal of any of the

HERE was no style or grace to his prose, which was as functional as he thought good engineering should be. But in his heyday he could make you feel that you were sitting alongside him, watching the Ferrari mechanics turn a pit-stop into a moment of slapstick comedy, or sitting down after the race to a Bor

relaxed meal with the drivers. I last saw him at Imola three or four years ago, standing on the balcony above the pad-dock, watching Jean Alesi talk to his mechanics behind the Ferrari pit. A proper race track. A proper racing driver. Proper red cars. No one did

## Sacchi's exit a worry for Hoddle

Paddy Agnew in Rome

OBERTO BAGGIO and Gianluca Vialli may come out of the international wilderness to haunt England now that Italy's coach Arrigo Sacchi has finally jumped ship, five months after his sell-by date. Glenn Hoddle always knew his side would face the toughest test yet of their character when the Italians, still smart-Euro 96 exit last summer, visit Wembley for the February 12 At first glance, news of Sac-

out on the Azzurri and return to his old hunting ground at AC Milan appeared to indicate England might face a team in disarray for what could be the decisive game on the trail to France 98. But the downside — from an English perspective - is that Sacchi's departure could see the return to international colours of the star trio discarded by the

chi's abrupt decision to walk

The Chelsea striker Vialli, Milan's Baggio and Lazlo's Beppe Signori all fell foul of Sacchi, who preferred Stamford Bridge's latest recruit, Gianfranco Zola, to Baggio.

Although no one could say | Marcel Desailly and Stefano that Sacchi's resignation came | Eranio, all suspended. Milan, as a shock, his decision imme diately to climb back on to the managerial tightrope — where he will be renew acquaintance with Baggio — does prompt intriguing questions.

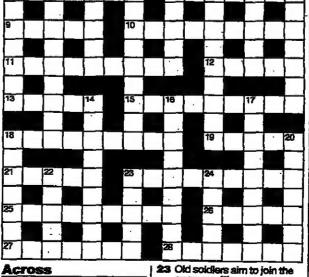
Can he re-fire and trans-form a Milan side who currently appear to have lost their competitive appetite? Even his first test, at home to the Norwegian side Rosenborg Trondheim in the Champions League tomorrow night, is not without dangers since he will be without key elements such as the Liberian George Weah, Frenchman

draw to win their way plosive quarter-final clash with the newly crowned world club champions,

While Sacchi gets back to work with Milan, the Italian federation must settle on his successor, likely to be ap-pointed next week. The current Under-21 coach Cesare Maldini is favourite for the job, with the 1982 World Cup winning captain and goalkeeper Dino Zoff a close



Guardian Crossword No 20,826



Across 1 Gain the utmost benefit

from enterprise (7)

9 Card returned to a despicable man (5) 10 Note for an alteration in the

11 Across on a church carpet (9) 12 Fish taken tall-first by

13 A bath can be invigorating — in all probability that's a unanimous feeling (5) 15 Outspoken disapproval by builders about strike (9)

18 Figure the class may be the only one of its kind (9) 19 More mature, yet go helf for leather with little hesitation (5

21 Better Mediterranean holiday resort, right? (5)

company (9) 25 Having to do with imprisoned social worker

being ashamed (9) 26 A woman reading articles in French, Italian, and English (5) 27 A plant's uprightness (7) 28 Regret holding key informa-tion back, and withdraw (7)

Down 1 Catches parents out (7)

2 It's most important that boat carries a painter and medico (9) 3 X used repeatedly (5)

4 Yielding and giving up vehicle and furniture (9) 5 Speak without qualification

6 The janitor's no casual worker! (9) 7 A drift reversed in Portugal (5) WORD SOLUTION 20.825

8 Put at a loss no more (7) 14 These days the guy hires

16 Ten trains are to be replaced immediately (9) 17 A quiet bell-like sound which is found pleasing (8)

18 A top man will get on within a month (7) 20 Broadcast a tirade - quite wrongly (7)

22 Cover over the chicken (5) 23 He'li be sycophantic, but only till day-break (5) 24 Many London shops display

such material (5)

The Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0691 338 338, Calls cost 50p per manute Mon-Fri, Sam-Spm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS



Is Britain going down the American road towards a lawyer-driven. jackpot-hungry morass of futile complaints of psychological trauma, fuelled by the vague hope that you might persuade a jury to give you a compensation bonanza or at least intimidate the defending party to pay up out of court?

G2 cover story